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TRANSLATIONS ON USSR MILITARY AFFAIRS

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ARTICLES IN CELEBRATION OF NAVY DAY

Flt Adm V. A. Kasatonov

Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jul 77 p 3

[Article by Flt Adm V. A. Kasatonov, Hero of the Soviet Union: "Great Maritime Power"]

[Excerpts] In recent years all the services of our Armed Forces, including the Navy, have changed unrecognizably thanks to the concern of the Communist Party and Soviet government and to the heroic efforts of the Soviet people. The Navy has become a new maritime, nuclear missile, air, and subsurface power capable of accomplishing complex missions. Nuclear submarines armed with long-range ballistic missiles launched from beneath the surface and with self-guiding torpedoes; naval aviation made up of supersonic missile-equipped and antisubmarine warfare [ASW] aircraft; surface ships, including missile cruisers, ASW ships, destroyers, missile patrol boats, and landing vessels form the foundation of the Navy. The fundamental changes which have taken place in naval weapons and organization permitted conversion to a qualitatively new type of combat training -- training in the remote regions of the seas.

Long cruises are the watchword of the navy. Ships flying the flag of the Soviet Navy sail in various parts of the World Ocean. Bourgeois propaganda disseminates all kinds of fabrications in this regard. They repeat the tales about the supposed "Soviet military threat" for clearly provocative reasons even though, as is known, the Soviet Union threatens no one.

As Soviet ships take to the high seas, the people of the world learn the truth about our navy better. In foreign ports, Soviet sailors feel they are the plenipotentiaries of the Country of Soviets. The friendly visits of Soviet sailors allow people of the countries visited to be convinced with their own eyes of the triumph of socialist principles in Lenin's Motherland, of the true equality of peoples, of the peace-loving policy of our state.

The force of our ideas, the great historic truth of Marxism-Leninism, the successes of communist construction, and the enormous advantages of socialism in the social, economic, and spiritual spheres provide sailors a powerful weapon of irrepressible influence on the consciousness of millions of people overseas.

The disinterested assistance of Soviet sailors to the peoples of other countries has a magnetic force. The selfless actions of our sailors in the People's Republic of Bangladesh during the clearing of the port of Chittagong, when sweeping mines in the Bay of Suez, and in rescue operations on Mauritius Island are well known. All this aid came from a pure heart, devoid of the conditions usually put forth by the capitalist states when they aid others.

Our Navy now has powerful and modern equipment. But its main force, the decisive force is its people, infinitely dedicated to the party, the Soviet government, ardent Soviet patriots and internationalists replete with unshakeable decisiveness to come at the Motherland's first call to the defense of socialism's conquests.

The navy has experienced, qualified military cadres. The command, political, and engineering-technical corps has a high degree of political and special training. The entire officer corps aboard nuclear submarines has a higher education. More than half of the officers in the navy received an engineering education. Unit and formation [chast' i soyedineniye] commanders, as a rule, have graduated from military academies. Ninety percent of the officer corps are communists and Komsomol members.

A majority of the youths entering the navy has a secondary education. This allows them in a short time to master to perfection the complex combat equipment and weapons and skillfully maintain them. At the present time, every second sailor is an otlichnik in combat and military training and more than 90 percent are class-rated specialists.

Military councils, commanders, political workers, and party and Komsomol organizations indoctrinate sailors in a spirit of dedication to their military duty, in a fervent love for the Motherland and the Communist Party. They develop in the sailors the desire to ceaselessly improve military skills, strengthen military discipline, and raise the combat readiness of ships and units.

Flt Adm N. Smirnov

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jul 77 p 2

[Article by Flt Adm N. Smirnov, First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy: "Ocean Watch"]

[Excerpts] Today is USSR Navy Day. This traditional holiday is being jubilantly marked by all Armed Forces personnel, by all the Soviet people. The Motherland honors the military sailors, naval veterans, builders of combat ships, and of modern combat equipment and weapons.

Guaranteeing the country's security and defensive readiness, the Communist Party and Soviet government are demonstrating constant concern about strengthening the Soviet Armed Forces. The theoretical and practical actions of L. I. Brezhnev, First Secretary of the CC CPSU, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Chairman of the USSR Defense Council, and Marshal of the Soviet Union, play an important role in managing them.

The Soviet Navy embodied in itself the newest achievements of Soviet science and technology. Nuclear missile weapons, large power plants, and radioelectronic gear propelled it into the ranks of the strategic forces. The foundation of its combat might are nuclear submarines, naval missile-equipped and ASW aircraft, plus a variety of missile and ASW surface ships. The coastal missile and artillery troops and the naval infantry have excellent combat equipment. The powerful nuclear missile navy of our power has left the coastal waters of closed seas for the expanses of the World Ocean.

The navy's main force is people infinitely dedicated to the party and government, ardent patriots and convinced internationalists always prepared to selflessly defend their Motherland, the cause of October, the great conquests of socialism. Our navy has highly-qualified military cadres. Almost all ships' officers have a higher education and the warrant officers [michman i praporshchik] receive excellent training. The communists and Komsomol members, making up 90 percent of the complement, are the cementing foundation of the military collectives. Now every second sailor is an otlichnik and more than 90 percent are class-rated specialists.

Ocean cruises are the higher school of combat skill and universal tempering of sailors. Crew coordination and their ability to operate under complex conditions are worked out during long cruises. It is not only equipment and weapon reliability that is put to the strict test. The same goes for the tactical maturity of commanders, the moral-political and psychological tempering of crews, their combat skills and physical agility, the ability to accomplish the most complex missions. The levels of skill of a ship's crew operating at sea range from confident navigation to confidently waging combat.

We are fully justified in stating that our sailors have assimilated well navigation in remote regions and operating reliably and confidently there. The missile cruiser "Admiral Fokin," large ASW ships "Admiral Zozulya" and "Skoryy," the patrol vessel "Primorskiy Komsomolets," and others have coped with their combat training tasks in an excellent manner.

Many ships and units achieved stable results during pre-October competitions. Among them are the nuclear missile-equipped "Leninets," ASW cruiser "Leningrad," large ASW ships "Ochakov" and "Druzhnyy," missile cruiser "Admiral Golovko," missile patrol boat "Tambovskiy Komsomolets," and the minesweeper "Nikolay Markin." The tactical and military-technical skills of the officers, many of whom became true masters of troop training and indoctrination, were fortified during the exercises, on cruises, and during flights.

The know-how of leading crews, the best commanders, and the best political workers is our valuable property and it must be put to good use. The strict criteria of modern combat must be more fully employed during exercises, on cruises, and during flights. We cannot forget that people and ships must be ready to do battle against a powerful and treacherous enemy who possesses modern weapons and all possible means of counteraction. We must consistently raise the effectiveness and quality of combat training on every ship, in every unit.

Purposeful party-political work has been called upon to facilitate successful accomplishment of the missions with which the navy is tasked. Military councils, commanders, political organs, and party organizations are channeling their efforts towards indoctrinating personnel with ideological conviction, moral steadfastness, and readiness to defend the Motherland.

Sailors are full-fledged citizens of the USSR actively participating in the sociopolitical life of the country. Thousands of the navy's best representatives have been elected deputies of councils and members of supervisory party organs. Sponsorship ties that ships and units have with local party and Soviet organizations and with labor collectives have become a valued tradition. The Komsomol's sponsorship of the navy, established at V. I. Lenin's suggestion, is being strengthened. Sailors deeply respect labor of our ship builders, workers, engineers, and technicians who create the marvelous ships and excellent equipment for the navy. Many important problems are solved in close cooperation with DOSAAF organizations.

Reliably defending USSR state interests, Soviet sailors are making their contribution to bolstering the friendship between the peoples of various countries and continents. This is facilitated by the many visits and stops Soviet ships make at foreign ports. The peoples of foreign lands are convinced with their own eyes of the triumph of socialist principles in October's Motherland, of the peace-loving foreign policy of our state, of the high political, military, and moral maturity of Soviet sailors who are worthy representatives of their great country.

The close bonds of combat brotherhood link our navy with the navies of the socialist states, the Warsaw Pact countries. Joint cruises and exercises and friendly meetings facilitate bolstering the coordination of forces and indoctrination of the personnel in the allied navies in a spirit of socialist internationalism.

As was noted at the 25th CPSU Congress, although the capabilities of imperialism's aggressive actions have now been blunted considerably, its nature remains unchanged. The military budgets of the leading capitalist states, especially the NATO countries, are growing. The decision made in the USA to produce the neutron bomb and deploy cruise missiles denote the unleashing of a new round of the arms race by imperialism's aggressive circles. One cannot help but see in this a desire on the part of the US military-industrial complex to derail detente. This all dictates the necessity for high vigilance.

Adm V. P. Maslov

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 31 Jul p 1

[Article by Adm V. P. Maslov, Commander of the Red Banner Pacific Ocean Fleet: "Maritime, Missile-Equipped"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet people are noting our traditional Navy Day holiday in an atmosphere of high labor and political enthusiasm generated by the national discussion of the draft of the new USSR Constitution and the preparations for the 60th anniversary of Great October.

During the postwar period the Communist Party and Soviet government, consistently conducting a peace-loving foreign policy, are demonstrating a constant concern about strengthening the defensive might of the socialist Motherland and are making sure that the USSR Armed Forces have everything required for the reliable defense of the country's peaceful labor and security.

If you are talking about our navy, then it has become a maritime missile-equipped navy, with nuclear submarines equipped with missiles for varied purposes forming its main striking force. Nuclear power plants gave the submarines practically unlimited range and cruise autonomy at high speeds. Naval missile-equipped and ASW aviation has great capabilities. Our surface vessels, coastal missile and artillery units, and naval infantry are at a level meeting modern requirements.

Our Navy, coordinating with all services and branches of the USSR Armed Forces, is capable of accomplishing strategic missions in a contemporary war.

The year of Great October's 60th anniversary, the year a new USSR Constitution is to be passed, has its special omens in the Navy as in the entire Armed Forces. The distinguishing trait of service, combat training, and life of the sailors is that socialist competition has not only acquired a new scale but has moved a level higher as far as quality is concerned. The initiative of the troops from the Taman' Division envisioning a struggle to identify the best unit and the best formation has found wide-spread support.

The honor of being the leader of this movement in the Navy fell to a nuclear submarine from the Pacific Ocean Fleet. The crew of this ship, which is commanded by Captain 1st Rank A. Kazakov, is replete with the desire to greet the glorious October jubilee with worthy deeds and is successfully fulfilling its socialist pledges.

That the pre-October socialist competition is going well is given convincing witness by many other facts of our daily military labor. Thus, the crew of the large landing ship "Aleksandr Tortsev" commanded by Captain 3rd Rank E. Borisov recently returned to its home port after an extended cruise. The ship confirmed its title of excellent. By the way, its crew has been awarded the CC VLKSM [All-Union Lenin Young Communist League] pennant. The ship commanded by Captain 2d Rank G. Zavarukhin has held the title of excellent

4 years. The sailors' former deeds have now had new deeds added. Accomplishing training missions in the ocean's latitudes, they demonstrated their very best side.

We all recall the words from CC CPSU General Secretary L. I. Brezhnev's letter to the crew of the excellent nuclear submarine assigned to the Red Banner Northern Fleet: "For the sailors in the navy, just as for all the personnel of our glorious Armed Forces, high moral-combat qualities, collectivism, friendship and comradeship, and infinite dedication to our Leninist party and Soviet people are characteristic." Sailors strive to justify this high evaluation through noble patriotic deeds for the glory of the socialist Fatherland, in the name of the victory of communism.

DOSAAF USSR, a multimillion member patriotic organization, makes a weighty contribution to strengthening the country's defensive might and to the development of its Navy.

Carrying out the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the requirements of the Law on Universal Military Service, guided by the decisions of the 8th All-Union DOSAAF Congress, the Society's organizations guarantee that draft-age youth are given high-quality training for service in the armed forces. They actively participate in the youths' basic military training and actively assist secondary general education schools, professional and technical schools, and secondary special educational institutions in this work.

The Khabarovsk, Khmel'nitskiy, and Novorossiysk Model Naval Schools do a great deal of work to train specialists for the Soviet Navy.

The Khabarovsk Model Naval School (school chief is L. Tsukerman) has been awarded the Travelling Red Banner of the USSR Ministry of Defense 2 years in a row.

The naval school year after year trains qualified machinists and electricians for the Navy.

The business-like friendship of our Navy with DOSAAF is strengthened with each passing year. Many important problems are solved in close cooperation with the Defense Society's organizations.

Like all Soviet military personnel, sailors from the Pacific Ocean Fleet warmly approve the draft of the new USSR Constitution, the decisions of the May CC CPSU Plenum, and those of the sixth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. They realize that, in spite of a slight warming in the international climate, the danger of the enemies of peace unleashing a war has not been removed. The reactionary circles of the USA and other imperialist states strive to not only increase international tension but also do everything to further extend the framework of the arms race. Carping, scurrilous attacks directed at the Soviet Union and other countries of socialist cooperation are heard from their camp.

Only one conclusion can result. Remembering the behests of the great Lenin, we must continually bolster the country's defense so that no one encroaches upon our most sacred, our most valuable possession -- the conquests of Great October.

Engr-Adm V. G. Novikov

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 31 Jul 77 p 1

[Article by Engr-Adm V. G. Novikov, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy: "Always on Patrol"]

Today is a holiday for Soviet sailors -- Navy Day. The entire country is celebrating along with the sailors.

We sacredly preserve the fruits of our great Victory, the conquests by the Soviet people guided by the Communist Party. Thanks to its wise Leninist policy, our people have enjoyed peace for more than 30 years. However, imperialism's reactionary forces have not reconciled themselves to the fundamental changes in the international arena in favor of socialism. They oppose a relaxation in international tensions, disseminate fabrications about an imaginary "Soviet threat," and fan an uncontrollable arms race in which the naval forces of the capitalist countries do not take a back seat.

Under these conditions, the Communist Party and Soviet government place the requisite attention on strengthening the defensive capability of the country, including the development of the Soviet Navy as well. Thanks to Party concern and the selfless labor of workers, builders, and scientists in the ship-building and other sectors of industry, our country has created a modern ocean Navy possessing nuclear submarines, surface combatants, support ships, and naval aviation capable of accomplishing a wide range of missions in an armed struggle on the seas.

Ocean navigation and long cruises have become the basic school of sailors' combat skills. Such cruises check out not only the reliability of weapons and equipment but also the moral-political and psychological tempering of the ships' crews, their readiness at any moment to carry out a combat order. Far from native shores and often in complex climatic and storm conditions sailors successfully accomplish responsible missions, demonstrating vigilance, steadfastness, courage, and heroism. Examples are excellent accomplishment of combat training missions on ocean cruises by such ships as the missile cruiser "Admiral Zozulya" and "Skoryy," the patrol boat "Primorskiy Komsomolets," and others.

Our ships are distinguished by their seaworthiness and reliability. This permits us to make long cruises on them, some lasting up to several months.

Receiving good technical training and ideological-political tempering during their naval service, many sailors and petty officers after demobilization labor with great enthusiasm and energy at plants, on kolkhozes, at

construction projects, or continue their service on ships of the trade or industrial fleets.

Socialist competition for a worthy greeting for the 60th anniversary of the Great October socialist revolution has widely unfurled throughout the Navy. The competition initiator is the crew of the excellent nuclear missile submarine commanded by Captain 1st Rank A. Kazakov. This patriotic initiative is unanimously supported aboard all ships and in all units and departments of the Navy. On this holiday, Soviet sailors report to the Communist Party and Soviet government that the Navy is reliably defending the maritime borders of the Motherland.

Vice Adm N. Shablikov

Vil'nyus SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 31 Jul 77 p 2

[Article by Vice Adm N. Shablikov, member of the Military Council, Chief of the Political Directorate, twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet: "On Guard of the Maritime Borders"]

[Excerpts] Today the Soviet people along with their valiant troops are triumphantly celebrating Soviet Navy Day.

Stormy development in the Soviet economy and in science and technology during the postwar five-year plans and the appearance of the newest sectors of industry led to a fundamental change in the means of armed struggle. The Navy now possesses surface and subsurface ships capable of confidently navigating in the expanses of the World Ocean and repulsing a threat along maritime axes.

The people are proud of the nuclear submarines which embody the latest achievements of Soviet industry, science, and technology. The nuclear reactor provided them with unheard-of speed, maneuverability, and concealment in navigation. They are able in very short periods of time to complete long voyages under water and occupy advantageous positions from which to inflict a powerful strike against an aggressor.

Nuclear submarines are armed with long-range ballistic missiles to be launched from beneath the surface and with self-guiding torpedoes. Soviet nuclear ships demonstrated fine sea-keeping qualities in cruises beneath the Arctic ice pack and surfaced exactly at the geographic North Pole. A detachment of nuclear submarines made a voyage around the world while submerged.

Many submariners have been awarded orders and medals for outstanding feats accomplished in peacetime. More than 20 were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, the Motherland's highest award.

Our supersonic missile-equipped aviation has become an integral part of the navy. Other branches of forces in the Navy have undergone fundamental changes.

Our command, political, and engineer-technical cadres have become noticeably younger in recent years. Our first-term sailors receive high professional training. Many of them acquired good labor tempering in production collectives.

Now most combat training missions are worked out on the ocean and sea expanses. And as practice shows, the quality of their accomplishment is continually growing. The results of the winter training cycle give witness to the further improvement in combat and political training.

Sailors greet Navy Day with new successes, a rise in the ranks of otlichniks and class-rated specialists, an increase in the number of excellent ships and units. The increase in the effectiveness of military labor is facilitated by the widely unfolding socialist competition for a worthy greeting for the 60th anniversary of Great October.

We thank the party organizations of Lithuania, Belorussia, Latvia, Estonia, Kaliningradskaya Oblast' for the attention they have given our fleet.

The names of many combat ships speak about good sponsorship ties: "Ul'yanovskiy Komsomolets," "Kaliningradskiy Komsomolets," "Brestskiy Komsomolets," and others. There is in the fleet a ship named "Komsomolets Litvy" also. This is one of the best ships in the fleet and the one which took first place in the winter training cycle results.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Complaint About Housing Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Aug 77 p 4

[Article by Lt Col V. Bogdanovskiy: "On the Track of a Letter: How the 'Falsehood' Was Born"]

[Text] In 1976 military builders turned over a house--it was a beautiful building. Then came the bad luck: hardly had the apartments begun to be filled, when a construction deficiency was immediately detected--chinks in the windows and doors, broken sinks and toilets, and the sewer system did not work.

Residents became concerned. Some turned to the builders, others wrote complaints to the district newspaper, where two critical articles were published. The builders and maintenance personnel "reacted." In particular, the work superintendent and several other builders went through all the apartments, took down the work required to be completed and promised to eliminate the shortcomings. And the appropriate heads sent responses to the newspaper to the critical articles.

The head of the political department of the construction directorate wrote that "party member V. Merabishvili, who directed personnel in constructing this unit, was heard at a party meeting. He was rebuked for poor supervision over the quality of construction work. Steps have been taken to eliminate the shortcomings noted."

The head of the political department was seconded by Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel E. Zamoro, chief engineer of the district KEU [billeting and maintenance directorate], and by other responsible comrades. Judging from their answers, all sanitary and technical facilities were installed in the apartment house, the sewer system was put in order, and elevators began to operate normally. In fact, everything appeared otherwise.

"After questioning the residents, the builders left and did not show themselves further," said Lieutenant Colonel A. Fomin, a tenant. "The radiator in my apartment was leaking. I asked for help several times. In vain. I had to hire a person on the side."

Perhaps just Lieutenant Colonel Fomin was unlucky? It turns out that this is not the case. Around six months went by after publication of the responses to the critical articles in the district newspaper. Then came another letter. This time it was to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. A group of residents wrote: "The water continues to come into the basements. Garbage cans have not been emptied for months. Elevators work intermittently. The roof leaks."

"Everything written there is correct," said A. Ruban, elevator dispatcher-inspector, after listening to me. "I don't live in this apartment house, but I sympathize with the people. There is no manager here. How many times have we asked managers at all levels to put the elevator areas in order and install lighting in them! They'll come, have a look, give promises and leave."

Now a few words about how the form-answers came about. District KEU inspector S. Goguadze reported to the chief engineer, Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Zamoro, that the shortcomings noted in district newspaper reports had been eliminated. And the latter, without checking, signed the paper. Why didn't he check it? No one asked Comrade Zamoro that question. But it had to be asked. Because the responsibility of officials includes a check of the work of subordinates. Otherwise its results could be quite different from what they should be. This shows once more, for example, the following fact. After checking the complaints of residents, I called the aforementioned district KEU inspector, S. Goguadze, who had previously visited the apartment house together with a commission. Without hearing me out to the end, he declared: "The facts were not confirmed."

"What do you mean?" I asked in surprise and began to explain that yesterday I myself had seen how the residents were placing pans under the streams flowing from the ceiling.

"When it rains, let's go there together and have a look. If the roof is leaking, the builders will repair it," concluded Goguadze, and he hung up the phone.

That's it. The facts were not confirmed, period. And the "falsehood" went through channels.

Editors' Note: As has become known to us, the troubles spoken of in the report have begun to be eliminated. But this hardly frees the culprits of the lengthy red tape from liability.

Complaints and Corrective Action

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 77 p 2

[Article: "Steps Taken in Response to Readers' Signals"]

[Text] Comrade Mymrikova, a reader of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, wrote to the editors: "It has been around two months now since my husband was released to the reserve. But to this date his personal file has not been sent to the military commissariat from the unit. He has been deprived of an opportunity to receive a pension and to get a job. And we have two small children in our family."

In response to a query by the editors, Colonel Pavshenko reported that Officer Vedernikov, commander of the military unit where Warrant Officer Mymrikov was serving, was reprimanded for sending the personal file late. Comrade Mymrikov's personal file has been sent to the military commissariat at his place of residence.

Military construction workers Korolev and Zubov wrote about poor organization of the everyday routine of unit service personnel, and also that their work was not paid for; and moreover, that they were in debt, even though they sometimes worked at the sites even on days off.

The facts presented in the letter were confirmed in a check performed on the spot at the request of the editors. The answer received by us states that the debts of individual military construction workers came about as a result of low production qualification of personnel, poor organization of labor in production, and poor control over work quality on the part of the command element and engineer-technical workers. In addition, Engineer-Major Krashennnikov in fact allowed a reduction in amount of work in covering details. He received disciplinary punishment for poor organization of work.

Military construction workers who had debts and were subject to release from the USSR Armed Forces to the reserve had been allocated to sectors with a higher rate of pay. Work had been done in the unit to regulate supply of construction materials to the teams and to improve the organization of their labor. Necessary steps had been taken to smooth out the day-to-day welfare of personnel, the bath and laundry services and high quality preparation of food.

Comrade Dolganova, wife of a first-term serviceman, appealed to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA for help in getting a child into a kindergarten, since she was illegally refused this in her area. We sent the reader's letter to the executive committee of the Cheboksary City Soviet of Workers' Deputies. As the editors were informed by Comrade Yeruslanova, deputy chairman of the city executive committee, Comrade Dolganova's child had been given a spot in a kindergarten in the city's Leninskiy Rayon.

A letter came to the editors from first-term serviceman Prokazov. He asked help in getting his driver's license restored, which had been given for safekeeping to Senior Lieutenant Yudin and not returned.

As it turned out in the course of an investigation performed at our request, the license had been lost by Officer Yudin as he was transporting personnel to their place of duty. At the present time a petition has been sent to the GAI [state automobile inspection] where Private Prokazov received his driver's license, to issue him an appropriate duplicate.

Comrade Yudin was given disciplinary punishment for negligence in safekeeping of documents and the incident was discussed with all officer personnel of the unit.

Military School Selection Process

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 77 p 2

[Article by Col P. Petrukhin, chairman of acceptance commission of Borisoglebsk Higher Military Pilots' School imeni V. P. Chkalov: "Acute Signal: 'Request Documents Be Returned'"]

[Text] Acceptance commissions of military schools perform a great deal of work. It begins with receipt of the first applications and reports and ends after completion of entrance exams. The commission has one goal: to choose the most worthy from among the matriculants.

Frankly speaking, it is a difficult task. It is necessary to study a multitude of personal files, behind each of which there stands a person. Everything must be considered: marks in the school-leaving certificate, performance appraisals, medical results. Members of the acceptance commission also are interested in the following: what led the youth to the school, and how firm and well-considered is his decision to become, say, a military pilot?

Some possibly will object: in the application, they say, the persons write about their desire in their own handwriting. Yes they do. And nevertheless, there are still cases where youths summoned to take entrance exams to school, having spent a few days or even hours there, ask for the documents to be returned. Unfortunately, we did not get by without this in this year as well.

Matriculants M. Dzhililov and Sh. Eshonov arrived in Borisoglebsk from far-off Tadzhikistan. They arrived and almost at the same instant declared that they did not wish to study here. Of course, we did not begin to try to persuade or detain them. One does not get a good pilot from a person who is capable of such sharp "turns."

This act lies above all on the conscience of the sorry excuse for matriculants themselves. But can we pass by in silence the activity of workers of the Isfara City Military Commissariat of Leninabadskaya Oblast of TASSR, who sent Dzhallilov and Eshonov to the school and made out their personal files? It appears that it would have been simpler for them on the spot to look into who the candidates were and how serious was their intent to become cadets. Or perhaps, there was not a real selection of candidates, but a formalistic fulfillment of a requisition?

The lighthearted "trip" after their documents was made to Borisoglebsk by S. Logachev from the Gubkin City Military Commissariat of Belgorodskaya Oblast, by A. Kirillov from the Almalyk City Military Commissariat of Tashkentskaya Oblast, by V. Androssov from the Chilanzarskiy Rayon Military Commissariat of the city of Tashkent, by A. Vykhrist from the Zvenigorodskiy Rayon Military Commissariat of Cherkasskaya Oblast, and by S. Lanin from the Arkadaskiy Rayon Military Commissariat of Saratovskaya Oblast.

As is known, aviation schools accept youths whose size does not exceed a certain limit. This is well known by the military commissariats. Nevertheless, Zheleznodorozhnyy Rayon Military Commissariat of the city of Penza sent M. Mel'nikov to us, and the Noginsk City Military Commissariat of Moskovskaya Oblast sent us V. Shornikov, who do not meet this requirement. We had to send the youths back.

It is not difficult to imagine what it costs the state for trips by such "matriculants" to and from a school. But the trouble lies here not only in an irrational expenditure of funds, for these people have taken the places of those who really wished to and could pass the entrance exams and dreamed of becoming officer pilots.

There can be but one conclusion from all that has been said. The one who recommends a tenth grader, young worker, kolkhoz member, private or seaman to a military school, who gives him a performance appraisal, and who orients him on the choice of a particular military specialty must approach the solution to this matter with a full sense of responsibility.

6904
CSO: 1801

NAVAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Missile Crew Combat Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Aug 77 p 1

[Article by WO A. Tambovtsev: "Missile Lightning"]

[Text] The naval missilemen of our unit, in preparing to properly celebrate the 60th anniversary of Great October, have promised to achieve the title of best unit of the surface ships in the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet. The socialist competition of the crews has achieved a particular upsurge during the days of the nationwide discussion of the draft of the new USSR Constitution.

Here is one of the episodes of combat training.

...Each passing mile brought the ship closer to the region where, according to reconnaissance data, there was an "enemy" with a landing force on board. The crew worked intensely at the battle stations. All the sailors were aware how important was the success of the pending attack, as in real combat it would mean to prevent the landing of the force. In front of the plan position indicator was Capt Lt N. Sviridov. The commander of the outstanding department was endeavoring to detect the target at maximum range.

Waves were rocking the ship heavily. The experienced "enemy," having spotted the pursuers, used jamming and maneuvered. He was endeavoring to deceive the missile troops, and to break through to the shore under cover and land the troops. However, Capt Lt N. Sviridov had great experience in operating under the conditions of heavy jamming. And now, with poor radar visibility, the officer still kept the pale blip at the very edge of the screen in the field of vision. He quickly classified the target, and a second later gave the bearings and range to the master of military skills, WO [michman] V. Gagarin.

The missile troops were already ready for the attack. My comrades, master of military skills WO V. Murenko, the first-class specialist WO A. Khutornoy and their subordinates for a last time inspected the powerful and reliable

weapons. The lids of the missile containers were opened. The commander, in maneuvering, brought the ship to the firing course. No matter how cleverly the "enemy" maneuvered now, he could not escape from the inevitable attack.

The tension at the battle stations grew. The range to the target dropped sharply with each minute. Sr Lt V. Babich was working intently at the missile firing control panel. Just several months ago the young officer, the son of a partisan from the famous formation of F. Kovpak, was appointed the commander of the missile and gunnery department. He had passed the examination for independent command of a subunit ahead of time. Now Sr Lt V. Babich was working constantly for complete interchangeability of the men at the battle stations. Today's firing was the first independent one for the young commander of the department.

The stopwatch marked the passing seconds. Control lights flashed on the panel and the last data had been processed. Sr Lt Babich smoothly pressed the launch button, the ship shook and was engulfed in a cloud of smoke. The cruise engines roared like thunder. The missile separated from the ship and sped like lightning to the target....

"There it is! Direct hit!" announced Sviridov looking away from the screen for a second.

The missile attack was carried out excellently.

Training Aboard Large ASW Ship

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Aug 77 p 2

[Article by Capt 3d Rank V. Kazakov, commander of the large ASW ship "Admiral Zozulya": "Schooling of the Long Meridians"; radioed from the Mediterranean by radiotelegraphist first class PO 1st Class A. Lukash]

[Text] The ship got underway during the moonless night, in complete radio silence, as these conditions would provide a concealed move to the training area.

A fighting mood reigned in the crew. Precisely during these days a thorough study of the draft USSR Constitution had developed on the ship. Being thousands of miles from the homeland, the sailors with particular excitement read the lines of the historic document, and with enormous pride spoke of the great honor of being a citizen of the USSR, the homeland of October, and carrying out the sacred duty of its defender. We focused the patriotic upsurge of the men on the high-quality and efficient carrying out of the training missions and the fulfillment of the socialist pledges.

In the first stage of the exercise, the specialists of the electro-mechanical department headed by Engr-Capt 2d Rank A. Malenko distinguished themselves. Ahead of the established time they started up the engine and boiler plant. Capt Lt S. Mashkov and Sr Lt V. Bayurov showed high skills in searching for the "enemy" submarine.

We feel it would not be an exaggeration to say that the effectiveness of the competition on a ship-wide scale depends largely upon the organization of the competition by the officers. The force of a personal example is difficult to overestimate. Each of our officers has personal pledges for the year and a comprehensive plan for long-range growth for 4-5 years. As an example, let me give the pledges of Capt Lt V. Zverev. He is working for the qualification of master and the title of "best watch officer," and has given his word to bring the department up among the outstanding ones, and train Sr Lt B. Shirokov in performing the duties of department commander.

The officer's word does not differ from his deeds. The missile and gunnery department is the leader in the competition on the ship. During the exercise the missile troops exceeded the standard for readying the missile complex for action. In the difficult duel with the "enemy," the missile strike was made with high accuracy.

It is worthy of note that each of our officers who should raise his class rating has assumed such an obligation. Some have even fulfilled this important point at the end of the winter training period, and others will take the exams on the eve of the 60th anniversary of Great October. A majority of the department commanders is specialists first class. These include Capt 3d Rank M. Simakov, Capt Lts A. Selivanov and I. Koloskov. Engr-Capt 2d Rank A. Malenko has become a master of military affairs.

The ship communists have made the proposal that each officer and warrant officer in the course of the long cruise master the duties a step higher than the held position. On the ship before there was a competition for this purpose, however not many participated in it. After a talk at the party bureau and later at a party meeting, a majority of the subunit commanders as well as the best petty officers of the crews entered this point in their personal pledges. And the plan is being successfully carried out. Thus, Capt Lt V. Zverev has mastered the duties of the executive officer, and the group commander Sr Lt B. Shirokov was permitted independent command of a department. The commander of the way division Engr-Capt Lt A. Shtern has been permitted to command the electromechanical department.

Participation in this form of the competition accelerates the development of the young officers and warrant officers and enriches their experience in a short period of time. As an example, Lt M. Inchin has served for a year on the ship, but has already become a class specialist, and has brought the group up among the outstanding ones. And recently, during the cruise, he was permitted independent command of a department. The

masters of military affairs, WOs I. Kirgira and Z. Khmel'nitskiy have been permitted to command groups, that is, they are capable of taking over for officers.

An excellent knowledge of the weapons and equipment on the part of a majority of the officers has contributed to the further development of technical creativity on the ship. The innovations introduced at department 5 by officers A. Malenko and A. Shtern have provided for a longer operating period of the main boilers between repairs. Sr Lt V. Bayurov has designed a simulator, and this has made it possible to increase operator training efficiency.

However, we still have unused reserves. For example, it is essential to achieve a further rise in the vigilance of the sea detail. In conducting certain training sessions, not all of the particular features of modern combat have been fully considered. We rightly are counting on the mobilizing force of the competition in solving these questions.

Missilemen Training

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Aug 77 p 1

[Article by Maj L. Bleskin: "Tested in Battle"]

[Text] When the combat was over and the large ASW ship "Skoryy" for the first time in many days of the voyage set course for the base, the officer of the missile and gunnery department, Sr Lt S. Pronkin, began to process the information from the test instrumentation. Later the missile troops viewed the developed films. In carefully examining the fanciful designs, they found the symbols of the meeting of the missile with the target, the recording of the ideal giving of the signals, and the regular markings of the time intervals. And even the ship commander, a person restrained in character and of few words, said:

"The missile troops worked beautifully!"

Several days later, the recording strips had been glued into the firing report and, having deciphered them, specialists from the fleet staff unanimously gave the missile troops a five, thereby affirming the skills of the crew which had increased during the long voyage.

A great deal could be read from the recording tapes. But the dispassionate monitoring devices of course could not transmit the entire intensity of the duel or the rapid instants which were counted in beats of the heart. The preceding firing, the complex work by the missile troops in the voyage and the intensity of the competition between the batteries for the right to carry it out remained outside the view of the movie cameras and the oscillographs....

A number of tactical variations had been examined and rejected until the ship commander found the only, as was later emphasized in the analysis, correct decision. He considered the probability of combined "enemy" counteractions from the sea and the air. The commander gave an opportunity for all the commanders to state their views, and many proposals made by them were considered in the battle plan.

The ship made the move during the daytime. The risk of being detected was great. But the commander of the "Skoryy" was counting precisely on the "enemy's" confidence that such a move would be impossible. In and of itself this daring plan contributed to raising the fighting spirit of the crew. The party activists Capt Lt V. Khodas, Sr Lt Ye. Khalaychev, and WO V. Sechkov reminded the sailors of their socialist pledges to utilize the equipment and weapons with great efficiency and to hit the targets with accurate fire.

...The air observation radar post. Air was being drawn into the ventilation duct noisily, and the units of the station hummed monotonously, like a high voltage line. But when one looked at WO V. Kosyura who was sitting immobile in front of the radar screen, one could understand that nothing else existed for him. For him the entire world was this screen. Through it, as if through an electronic window, Kosyura was viewing the space around the ship.

As yet there were no targets. But each time, when the beam illuminated the sector where fields of interference flashed, the operator strained looking for a blip. Here the appearance of an air "enemy" was most probable. Only as yet the scan repeated the same picture.

At the combat information station, the radio operators impatiently glanced at their watches. The plotting board operators were also waiting.

The first target slid across the screen as a small inoffensive spot which could be scarcely distinguished among the interference. But it did not escape notice by the sharp eyes of the operator. After several manipulations of the tuning levers, WO V. Kosyura had isolated the blip of the aircraft.

During numerous training sessions, the sailors had learned to use the capabilities of the electronic equipment with maximum efficiency, and had achieved a high level of teamwork between the crews of the combat information station and the main control station. Now their skill came in very handy. The first information on the appearance of the "enemy" had scarcely been received when like a chain reaction, the finely worked out attack plan went into operation. Suddenly several other targets moved into the zone of the observation equipment, and the operators recorded the appearance of launches. And several seconds later, the air situation plotting board was crossed with lines showing the routes of the airplanes. Keeping outside the impact zone, they maneuvered actively hoping to break through to the target with impunity.

Not being able to make a surprise attack, the "enemy" decided to keep the crew in constant tension and to psychologically break it by the expectation of attack. And here again the firmness, restraint, and the ability to maintain combat activeness in any situation came in handy for the missile troops.

One of the airplanes, having abruptly altered course, began to close in with the ship. The attack by the diving airborne target developed rapidly. Glancing at the operators of the station headed by WO G. Kutashin, initially one might conclude that they were too slow. But this seeming lack of hurry in their actions is full of inner dynamism and confidence of their forces.

There is not a single superfluous movement when you are flooded by information, and there is no nervousness when mere seconds determine the outcome of the duel. How much is behind this intense and externally not very striking, ordinary rough work!

Later on, after the attack, in becoming more closely acquainted with the operators, I learned that WO G. Kutashin 2 months before had become a master of military skills, and his subordinates had passed the exams for first class. The group of Sr Lt Ye. Khalaychev during the long voyage had become excellent and with a class rating.

The target blip was flashing. There came the commands to turn on the test instrumentation.

"Run!"

"Record!"

This meant that all the equipment of the missile complex was on. Leaving the guides, the missile headed toward the target. For a certain time the target blip crossed the indicator, and the target speed scale spun rapidly. But then the scale dropped to "zero" and the blip disappeared without a trace. The target had been hit.

Those who had witnessed the firing visually said that it was an impressive spectacle. But the missile troops who had readied the strike did not see this. They were at their places, should a new attack be made against the ship....

10272
CSO: 1801

IMPORTANCE OF OFFICER PROFICIENCY TRAINING STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 77 p 1

[Editorial: "Officer Class Ratings"]

[Text] Intense combat training is underway in units and aboard ships. Preparation for the glorious jubilee of Great October and discussion of the draft of the new USSR Constitution these days give this training a special incandescence. Carefully reading the lines of the draft Basic Law that are so full of deep meaning, Soviet military personnel are more fully conscious of their responsibility to the nation to defend the Motherland's security. This gives them new strength in combat training and service.

Armed Forces personnel are successfully accomplishing training plans and programs and their pledges in socialist competition. Steadfastly assimilating the art of active operations in the complex conditions of a tactical situation, they are learning to skillfully and effectively employ the growing capabilities of modern weapons and combat equipment, are indefatigably raising class-rating qualification, and becoming masters in their profession.

The high class rating of specialists is one of the important conditions for successful mission accomplishment by subunits [podrazdeleniye], units [chast'], and ships. This is confirmed in practice on a daily basis. Rainy weather occurred, for example, prior to commencement of active operations in the area where Exercise Karpaty [Carpathians] was to be held. However, nothing could affect mission accomplishment by the aviators in the units where excellently trained specialists were assigned to the squadrons. They were commanded by first-class pilots Lieutenant Colonel V. Telegin, Major P. Timofeyev, Sniper Pilot Major Ye. Kravtsov, and others. The battalion commanded by Captain N. Petruk, Cavalier of the Order "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" Third Degree, also excelled during this exercise. And this success was no accident. The majority of the battalion's officers has the qualification of master, or specialist first and second class.

Training days for all the services of the Armed Forces and for the branches of troops are rich with similar examples which confirm the ever growing

significance of masterful assimilation of equipment and weapons. Complicated flights, long cruises aboard ship, fast-moving marches by motorized infantry and tank subunits and by subunits of other branches of troops, the ability to locate and destroy targets at any time of the day or night under the most complex tactical and meteorological conditions require high combat mastery of all troops, from officers first of all. Only first-class specialists fill this bill.

Raising officers' class ratings is a subject of constant concern for commanders, political organs, and party organizations. But, in some places this concern is lacking. As Senior Lieutenant A. Khakhin writes to the editorial board, he cannot raise his class rating for the third year in a row although no special reasons within his personal control exist to preclude this. Training of high class specialists in the aviation unit where Khakhin serves is conducted without the requisite planning and organization. Similar deficiencies are also noted in several other units. For some reason certain commanders and political workers are not alarmed when some of their subordinate officers don't confirm their qualification year after year, even though they are obliged to do so in accordance with the positions they occupy. It also happens that many troops in a subunit have a high class rating but, when they accomplish combat training missions, the necessary coordination and mastery are not evident. And this occurs because the class rating test is conducted sometimes under simplified conditions whereby responsible persons do not set high standards. Such phenomena are impermissible.

The personal example of an officer and his authority as a specialist are of great significance in troop training and indoctrination. Subordinates respect the officer not only as their chief but also as a person knowledgeable in military affairs. Practice shows that the most effective employment of modern combat equipment is possible only when the commander, the organizer of combat, knows well and skillfully employs the capabilities of combat equipment and the weapons of the subunit, unit, and ship. If you consider that the process of renewal of combat equipment is continually accelerating and the number of new, more modern weapons models constantly increases, then it is not difficult to understand how important it is for the commander and for every officer to continually improve his knowledge, his class rating. Otherwise it is impossible to teach subordinates respect for equipment and achieve highly efficient weapons maintenance.

A great deal of know-how in the struggle for raising officer class rating has been accumulated in many units and ships. Training for class ratings using the assembly method achieves good results, for example in VVS [Air Force] units. The pilots here are brought together in a group and, with the aid of highly-qualified instructors, study the art of flying a combat aircraft in complex weather conditions.

As yet unfulfilled reserves for raising combat mastery must be more actively sought. In one unit, for instance, the tank park is remote from the garrison area, which causes difficulties in working out the tankers' skills. Then a group of specialists headed by Major G. Novikov, deputy subunit commander

for technical affairs, built a special simulator in which the tankers work out drills on overcoming various obstacles. Noting the effectiveness of the lessons organized here to train class-rated specialists, the military district commander commended officer Novikov.

There are many examples of a creative approach to the organization of troop combat training, the constant concern that all specialists in the pre-October socialist competition have realistic chances to fulfill pledges made to raise their class rating. Success depends upon organizational work accomplished by commanders, political organs, and staffs, the level of methodological preparedness on the part of exercise directors, and skillful use of leading know-how.

Independent officer training and planned commander's training must serve to raise class ratings. Commanders and staffs, political organs, and party organizations have been charged with demonstrating constant concern for providing officers with study areas, necessary books and manuals, and conducting qualification conferences for them with engineering-technical personnel. Measures to exchange know-how by providing on the job training on the equipment itself, equipment displays, plus question and answer evenings are very popular at the unit level. The personal example of communists and Komsomol members must play a great mobilizing role in raising class ratings.

A class rating is an index of combat mastery. Remembering this, every officer must steadfastly improve his special training, raise his class rating, and skillfully pass his knowledge on to subordinates. In doing so, he makes a weighty contribution to the struggle for a worthy greeting for Great October's 60th anniversary, for the further strengthening of subunit, unit, and ship combat readiness.

7869

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MORTAR PLATOON ALPINE TRAINING EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 77 p 1

[Article by Capt A. Belyy, Southern Group of Forces: "The Pass"]

[Text] The sun broke through after the rain. The soldiers moved along the slopes of the hills and a warm breeze rose up towards them from below. Lieutenant Vyacheslav Martynov led the way at a rapid springy pace.

They moved with full equipment -- with mortars, small arms, and ammunition. At first the soldiers made fun of each other. After about 3 kilometers they quieted down. After 5 kilometers their jackets became dark with sweat. The kilometers get long in the mountains. When the platoon had crossed a low range, Martynov halted. He collated the route using his compass and the map.

There were woods all around. Ridge-roofed pines, thick oaks and beech, prickly acacia thickets along the ravines. The mountain path led brokenly upwards to the distant pass. The lieutenant stated:

"The load today will be greater than usual. Anyone unsure of himself can drop out. The vehicle is below."

The formation did not waver. The officer added, now with the tone of voice of an order:

"No water without my approval."

The platoon moved out. Leaves dampened by the rain stuck onto the mountain boot studs and had to be removed by hand. Looking around, Martynov noted nearby the pale face of Junior Sergeant Vladimir Yel'shin. He judged the degree of fatigue of all by his condition. He didn't worry about himself -- strong tempering, a first class mountain climber. But neither Yel'shin nor the majority of the others had ever seen mountains prior to coming into the service. Today their will will decide everything.

This march concluded an exercise. Martynov himself had selected the route and reported to the regimental commander his decision to move as a unit across the mountains.

"Well, then, I approve the decision," agreed the lieutenant colonel after he familiarized himself with the plan for the march and the missions to be worked out en route. "I am banking on your experience as a mountain climber and your knowledge of your subordinates. It will be a serious test."

The path came to an end in thick bushes up against a vertical cliff.

They decided to detour via the woods. Martynov gave the signal and, brushing the thick branches aside with his alpenstock, walked into the green thicket. Broken areas cluttered with fallen rocks were encountered. Clouds of mosquitos attacked the mortarmen.

They halted for a minute. The officer caught the request in his subordinates' eyes.

"I authorize two swallows of water. Pass it along the column."

Soon breaks appeared in the trees, the ridges disappeared, and dry twigs crunched beneath their feet.

The officer fixed his gaze on Junior Sergeant Yuryy Kiselev and recalled something. During one march Martynov consciously deviated from the route in order to get past a canyon. One of the mortarmen flinched at the edge. The lieutenant was the first one to crawl across via the rope.

"Your turn, Kiselev?" he asked, unfastening his carbine.

"Are you crazy, Comrade Lieutenant? I have a girl waiting for me," Kiselev said in a somewhat joking manner and . . . he stepped back into the shadows.

Yel'shin moved forward, followed by the crew's gun layer. Only then did Kiselev come across. True, a lot of water has gone under the bridge since that incident. Kiselev and many of the others who had lacked will, courage, and steadfastness have changed.

They climbed still another height. Poppies spread like a crimson flame on a small glade. "Boy, just as if we had ordered them," Martynov smiled to himself. And he began to gather a bouquet. He then walked past the amazed soldiers to Private Tsurashvili.

"Congratulations, Zurav! Not everyone celebrates his 20th birthday like this, in the mountains, like a man. . . ."

His cohorts crowded around to congratulate the embarrassed celebrant. The mountain breeze seemed to pass across the hill, brushing the fatigue off those happy faces.

The smokeless fires invisible from above burned all night. The mortarmen were aroused in the morning by the command:

"Platoon, into battle!"

The crew instantly went to work. The sergeants who ran up to receive missions concentrated on catching the lieutenant's every word:

"Deflection 30-0. Sight setting 7-20. Aim, report readiness," the commands rang out loudly.

The time norm had not yet elapsed when reports came in:

"First, ready!"

"Second. . . ."

"Third. . . ."

"Platoon is ready!"

Martynov's command, sharp as a shot fired, ended the reports:

"Platoon, one mortar as a volley. Fire!"

The echo spread like rumbles far away in the mountains.

The lieutenant summed up the march below, by the river.

"Comrades!" the officer said with emotion in his voice. "The platoon travelled 70 kilometers through the mountains and accomplished the mission exactly as noted in the pledges. A radio message was just received. The regimental commander thanks you for excellent service!"

The formation, which was composed of troops from eight nationalities, stood at rigid attention. The response rang out as if from a single breast:

"We serve the Soviet Union! . . ."

7869

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WOMEN'S COUNCILS PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY LIFE DISCUSSED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 77 p 4

[Article by Maj Gen I. Komlev, First Deputy Chief of the Political Directorate, Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "Considerate Hands Are Needed Everywhere"]

[Text] That garrison is located at the foot of the mountains. The climatic conditions are not the greatest. Frenzied winds blow here at times for several days straight. Icy crumbs crunch during the winter and the sand penetrates every nook and cranny during the summer . . . But the post is bathed in green. A smooth clean asphalt road leads to regimental headquarters. Nearby are the barracks, dining hall, and club. A bit farther on is officer and warrant officer [praporshchik] housing. Everywhere you look there is order and cleanliness. Carefully sculptured green bushes, a scarlet burst of flowers, straight rows of trees.

All this beauty was created by the hands of the garrison's troops, the members of service families. Women had no small part in the labor to beautify the post, wives of officers and warrant officers, in particular V. Gayenko, N. Bondarenko, M. Makarova, and many others. Their hands planted the flowers, whitewashed the barracks, and decorated the dining hall and tea room tastefully. The unit [chast'] commander warmly describes the work of the women's council led by N. Yashchuk, an officer's wife. "Without their labor and attention," the commander says, "our post would not be so attractive." And this is correct.

The people here live an interesting robust life and don't feel isolated from cultural centers. They regularly have amateur artist concerts and leisure evenings, readers' conferences, and art shows by garrison artists. They organize trips to theaters and museums. The women's council activists, N. Yashchuk, G. Yarovenko, and V. Markova, are the guiding spirits of these interesting activities. They helped the troops brighten up their living conditions, organize leisure time, and draw them in to the world of art.

Tales have reached us over the years about the wives of red commanders who have done good deeds, who rightfully bear the proud title of combat companions. They assisted their husbands in every possible way in their comradely labor.

They worked in dining halls and stores, schools and kindergartens, taught the troops to read and write, created comfort at home and in the soldiers' barracks, beautified the garrisons. This is what N. K. Krupskaya said at a conference of the wives of Red Army command and staff personnel in 1936 about servicemen's wives: "You have been indoctrinated by the Red Army. You are socially active. You stand in the very thick of the socialist structure. To be socially active and to stand in the very thick of this social life, to be an active participant in socialist construction is a great joy. You live not a closed but rather a multifaceted life, you feel somehow that what you are doing is giving positive results."

Such a high evaluation of the activities of servicemen's wives rings true in our time too. There are many such officer and warrant officer wives in the garrisons of our Red Banner Central Asian Military District, selfless workers, irrepressible social activists, outstanding hostesses. They actively participate in the work of lecture bureaus and amateur artist collectives, organize leisure evenings and thematic matinees, indoctrinate children, and work at enterprises and institutions. They, like their husbands, are at the front line of the struggle for fulfillment of the plans drawn up at the 25th CPSU Congress. Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, CC CPSU General Secretary, also said this about them at the congress: ". . . in the fulfillment of those tasks which our congress will note for the future in all spheres of social life, our glorious women will undoubtedly make a great contribution."

Women's councils in our district actively engage in the ideological-aesthetic indoctrination of the members of service families, in the formation of a Marxist-Leninist world outlook in them. This work is especially vital now when the country heads for that notable date in its history, the 60th anniversary of the Great October socialist revolution. Using all forms and methods, women's councils propagandize the Soviet way of life, the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, our peoples' successes in the construction of communism. They actively participate in the discussion of the draft Constitution and in explaining it among the members of service families. A thematic outline has been developed everywhere for lectures, reports, and evenings devoted to the Soviet way of life.

The know-how in the work of the women's council headed by officer wife M. Kirilyuk merits attention. Widely practiced here are question and answer evenings, the film evening "From Congress to Congress," issues of the oral magazine "From the First Leninist Decrees," and meetings with progressive workers and war veterans. At the activists' initiative, a radio newspaper called "Combat Companion" is produced and is edited by V. Svidlova. The magazine's call letters are heard over local radio twice a month. It describes progress of preparations for Great October's 60th anniversary, garrison life, progressive workers, and those active in social matters. The magazine has a section devoted to ideological-political training. Together with the women's council, the political directorate concerns itself about the ideological-political trends of all measures, about their effectiveness. Here, they serve well, indoctrinate the children, and have interesting leisure activities.

Members of the women's council led by Z. Gavva are noted as being active assistants to commanders and political workers in the indoctrination of the troops and organizing their living conditions and leisure time. The troops' living conditions and leisure time and the amenities of military posts and kindergartens are always in the field of view of these activists. The women's council indoctrinates teenagers, organizing meetings with representatives from varied military specialties and holding sports competitions for their benefit. Council members visit the schools where the children of the unit's servicemen study and familiarize themselves with the children's progress and discipline. They also participate in monitoring public dining facilities and stores.

Unfortunately, this is far from being the case everywhere. There are units where women's councils actually do nothing, have no influence, do not participate in social life, resign themselves to shortcomings in the domestic situation. Good beginnings there peter out and the spark is not rekindled. This was the situation, for instance, in the unit where officer's wife V. Zhmur heads the women's council. A good share of the blame for this rests with political worker A. Tarasenko.

The question of preparations for the All-Army Conference on Improving Troop Living Conditions was recently discussed in the district's political directorate. It was noted that competition was unfurled at the unit level for model condition of military posts, for model living conditions. The direct duty of commanders, political workers, and party organizations is to support this initiative and to attract our women's councils and social activists to help.

The considerate hands of our women can do a great deal to convert military posts into model areas.

7869

CSO: 1801

GROUND FORCES COMBAT TRAINING: GOOD AND BAD EXAMPLES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Aug 77 p 1

[Article by correspondent Capt G. Miranovich: "Rhythm"]

[Text] The unit [chast'] was waiting for inspectors to arrive. The regimental area was put in order. Monitoring of lessons was intensified. Concerted work was in full swing in all sectors.

However, the mood changed after the commission arrived. Some of the things in the inspectors' plans turned out to be unexpected.

"We strive not to upset the day-to-day rhythm of the unit being inspected," I was told by Major V. Kolosyuk, a representative from higher headquarters. "But we didn't succeed this time . . . Only we weren't the cause of the nervousness."

It turned out that the inspection plan called for check firing from the armored personnel carrier [BTR]. Based on the training cycle, the personnel should have already worked out this drill. In actuality, the regiment didn't even have a training site from which to do so.

That is when the situation began to get tense. They set about preparing the firing range and designated a group of soldiers excused from their training lessons to do this. Finally the check firing took place. The evaluation received by the subunit [podrazdeleniye] being inspected was just what you would expect -- "unsatisfactory."

"If we had only been given a couple of weeks warning," grieved the distressed battalion commander, "it would have been another story."

An attempt to somehow justify the misfortune can be found in these words. But the "justification" has a hollow ring to it. All that was required was execution of a drill envisioned in the training program.

If the inspection plan had been announced 2 weeks earlier, there actually could have been a way to make up for lost time. At the cost of disrupting

the lesson schedule and a rush job at the firing range. But is it in the interests of combat training to force the assimilation of one training problem at the detriment of the others? Is it not better to strictly and consistently follow the training plan, the programs, without permitting any gaps in any section? Military pedagogy and psychology and the combat training program orient us towards exactly such consistency and systematism in training. A rush job sometimes lets one create the appearance of momentary success, to conceal shortcomings. But no one is capable of achieving stable successes using the "cribbing" approach.

The officers in the unit with whom I discussed the firing range incident also acknowledged that this method is faulty. And at the same time they brought up objective difficulties of a different nature which prevent one from achieving a precise rhythm in the training process. They put forth varied arguments but the discussion did not include anything about defects in program fulfillment being the fault of specific responsible individuals.

They were able to do a rush job to set up a training position for conducting fire from a BTR after the commission arrived at the regiment. And, if this had not been accomplished beforehand, finding those at fault is not difficult.

The efforts of many are combined to organize combat training. Painstaking organizational work and diligent and faultless accomplishment of tasks by every individual are also required to insure its rhythmic nature, the effectiveness of each lesson, unswerving fulfillment of training plans, programs, and socialist pledges made.

True, the discussion above concerned only a single episode of a multifaceted and complex military life. But the problem is visible within this episode. At the contemporary stage, any blunder in training organization carries a rhythm along with it and leads to gaps which become all the more difficult to eliminate.

The name of Yu. Robov, then a senior lieutenant, found its way into my notebook due to the following circumstances. The regimental commander and I went out to a company tank firing drill involving use of vehicle resources. The company which the young commander had just taken over was in the field.

"Senior Lieutenant Rogov," he introduced himself.

It was an intense drill. The crews learned to prepare the tanks for combat, the ability to maintain the combat formation during the attack and when making a maneuver, and achieved precision in operations in response to commands . . . Many things they did were impressive. But, in my view, the main thing was that there were clearly no holes in the targets. The regimental commander also noted this.

"How do you explain the low firing results?" he asked the company commander.

"By the fact that at this stage of training," the senior lieutenant replied, "I place special stress on other questions. We will move to accurate firing training later."

"Well, then," the regimental commander said. "Time will tell."

I didn't find out how the company fired a month or two later. I again heard the familiar name Robov, now captain already, only 18 months later, when he was in an entirely different unit.

Major S. Pavlenya, a political worker, told the young officers at the range about Captain Yu. Robov's work style. I also learned then that Robov's company took first place at district firing training contests.

It became clear that the young company officer had revealed his "secrets" back then during our first meeting. They are simple — improve the gunners' knowledge and skill in an integrated manner without overlooking any details, lead them to mastery consistently from point to point. I think that even back then Yuriy dreamed about sniper accuracy in his subordinates' firing, that he saw the distant goal.

By the way, you probably won't find a commander who doesn't have such a dream. But not all can achieve it. Methodological mastery, patience, will, and far-sightedness are lacking. Plus, you don't always encounter the understanding on the part of senior officers such as that shown by the regimental commander during the incident with Robov.

Firm rhythm in the training process . . . that is the formula expressing in a concentrated form the reasons for the success of the young commander and his subordinates. By the way, Captain Robov was recently assigned to a higher position.

Rhythm is important not only in combat training. Its mobilizing influence is manifested in the entire life of the military collective, the subunit, the unit. Nothing else can poison the job like "ebbs and tides" in a commander's exactingness. And unfortunately they are encountered. The training period in a certain unit begins in a way that makes one glad. The staff accomplishes firm control over adherence to the daily routine and lesson schedule and sees to it that all troops are included. Official starting of the lessons, checking the plan abstracts, high readiness of the training facilities . . . All this moves, disciplines, and uplifts personnel.

But it sometimes happens that a week or two pass and the spring wound up by the efforts of commanders, staffs, and party organizations begins to run down. Lesson themes are randomly changed, their plans are approved late, nonproductive time losses increase. This is primarily because some officers and warrant officers [praporshchik] lack a high degree of inner drive.

Sometimes just before an inspection or prior to the critique of an important training period or before a vital stage in a competition you hear the comment "we lacked only a couple or three days." One always wants to object. Two or three days is a solid reserve but it is not just that. The results of the rush job at the motorized infantry regiment's firing range discussed earlier also tell us something. Great achievements are made not by storming but by a planned comprehensive guaranteed offensive.

Rhythm is a word denoting stability, purpose, and practicality. Military order embodies this. To insure precise rhythm in accomplishment of the multifaceted missions facing a unit today means to employ with maximum effectiveness that enormous patriotic enthusiasm which is elicited among personnel by discussion of the draft of the USSR Constitution and to create a reliable basis for full and qualitative accomplishment of training programs and socialist pledges in honor of Great October's 60th anniversary.

7869

CSO: 1801

ACTIVITIES OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 77 p 2

[Article by Capt V. Samoylenko, Chief of VAI [Military Automobile Inspection], Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "A Ticket Punch"]

[Text] The VAI inspector raised his baton and the vehicle that pulled over to the shoulder stopped. Private Shteforuk, the worried driver, ran up to Senior Lieutenant Yu. Bortnikov who had stopped him.

"You exceeded the speed limit," the officer said sternly.

Excuses followed. Bortnikov explained to V. Shteforuk what such haste could lead to and got out his punch. A click rang out. . . .

I can anticipate the commentary of certain military drivers concerning the above. Is that all VAI inspectors do, "punch" tickets? That of course is far from the case. The work of our inspectors on the line is only a portion, and an insignificant portion I might add, of their day-to-day labor. Their main purpose is to prevent highway accidents.

This is not my first year in the VAI system. I can't think of a case where a highway accident occurred because of vehicle imperfections. This is convincing witness to the reliability of our equipment. The problem is with those who operate this equipment.

I must point out that energetic officers who know their job labor in our group of forces VAI. This is not the first decade that Major V. Mizgayev, chairman of the military qualification commission, has had service ties with vehicle transportation. Senior Lieutenant Yu. Bortnikov, VAI senior inspector and specialist first class, became a driver back when he was a soldier. Behind him are the higher military vehicle school and command of a vehicle subunit [podrazdeleniye]. Captain I. Bershatskiy, Warrant Officer [praporshchik] I. Orekhov, and other of our assigned and free-lance inspectors are also known for their conscientiousness and principled nature.

Military automobile inspection has broad capabilities for analysis of the positive and negative sides of vehicle transport operations due to the nature

of its activities with many subunits and units [chastil]. This circumstance also lets them purposefully conduct preventive measures in garrisons.

An accident took place last year on a busy section of road. Private N. Somov, driver of a heavy cargo truck, was carrying on a conversation with Senior Lieutenant V. Volobuyev, senior occupant, and incorrectly made a turn. VAI inspectors established the degree of guilt of driver Somov and officer Volobuyev. The matter, however, didn't end there.

Things had not been so good as far as vehicle operations were concerned in the unit to which the vehicle belonged. A group of VAI workers headed by Major V. Mizgayev visited there after a subsequent incident. They thoroughly checked into the reasons for the practices leading to vehicle accidents.

It turned out that vehicles were readied for trips sometimes at a pell-mell pace. Some responsible individuals openly "prompted" the KTP [Technical Control Point] chiefs not to be too fastidious when checking vehicles. Instruction of drivers and senior occupants was absent in some cases.

The VAI officers actively participated in a technical conference with the unit drivers organized hot on the heels of another highway accident. Bortnikov showed slides which clearly demonstrated the basic rules for going through intersections and the special features of traffic on country roads. The demonstration was accompanied by explanations and analysis of the facts of subunit life. Complaints and recommendations expressed by the unit's drivers were accompanied by examples based on know-how in the group of forces' leading units.

We consider propaganda of leading know-how the most important effort in our work to prevent vehicle accidents.

We noted many valuable things, for example, in the subunit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel V. Luchko. Motor pool service is organized here in strict accordance with regulations.

The party and Komsomol organizations participate daily in the indoctrination of the subunit's drivers. And it is completely normal that there have been no practices leading to highway accidents noted here in the collective for several years now.

Mass-scale inspection of transportation operations occupies a large place in our work. It also gives ample food for reflection and analysis. We found the following to be normal practice once when working in one garrison. The greatest number of violations occurred on the route which led in the direction away from busy roads. Why is that? We checked in detail on the spot and here is what we discovered. Superficially, the "successful" route hid many "surprises." There were narrow areas, treacherous turns. . . .

The "unlucky" road brought up the idea of diagraming the garrison's basic routes. A diagram was quickly drawn up and copies made for the units. The

diagram displayed route characteristics, ways to overcome the most dangerous sections, speed of the traffic, etc. Instruction of drivers and senior occupants became more meaningful. The garrison's accident rate dropped. Now all units have diagrams with similar breakdowns.

Naturally, we are far from being complacent. Instances of practices inimical to driving safety still occur in some places and our recommendations are not always given the requisite attention. And that is why VAI inspectors always man their posts on roads used by vehicles bearing military license plates.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Housing Complaint

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 77 p 4

[Article by Lt Col A. Zakharenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "An Acute Signal: Sanctions Misapplied"]

[Text] Before me is a letter from Ye. Yushkina, a serviceman's wife. It states that "in November of last year my husband, Warrant Officer A. Yushkin, was sent for further service to one of the groups of forces. As he was leaving, officials of KECh [billeting and maintenance unit] assured him that the family would be issued a certificate for reservation of quarters under established procedures. But eight months have gone by since then, and this promise still has not been fulfilled. Moreover, the garrison quarters organ has refused entirely to petition the executive committee of the local soviet for issue of a certificate for reservation of quarters. I have been told to give up my apartment without any explanation of the reasons.

"Appeals for help to the unit where my husband previously served for a long while, as well as to other organizations and to the garrison military procurator have produced no results. Travel and other documents were written twice for the family and are no longer valid as their term of action has expired. Now I have again received a call from the group of forces. If my son also cannot take advantage of it, he will not be in time for the beginning of classes in school and additional difficulties will be created in the life of the family."

I had a talk with I. Yareshenko, chief of the housing group of KECh. He knows about this. Yes, Warrant Officer A. Yushkin's family was refused in the issue of a quarters reservation. In addition, the serviceman's wife has been told to give up attempts to change anything. In his opinion, decision on the matter is final.

Ivan Vasil'yevich informs me confidentially that other families of garrison officers and warrant officers heading for service in groups of forces and remote areas are in the same position. For example, the families of Lieutenant G. Kharlamov and Major G. Zel'skiy have been refused the issue of certificates for reserved housing.

"They should have done like the others, submitted orders for quarters and gone very quietly to their husbands and fathers," reasons Ivan Vasil'yevich, "but they still complain."

I asked the KECh official to acquaint me with provisions of laws which determine the procedure for reserving housing for servicemen and members of their families. Comrade Yaresenko has all the papers at hand. Together we read the sections and paragraphs which precisely confirm the right of Warrant Officer Yushkin, Lieutenant Kharlamov, Major Zel'skiy and others for housing to be reserved for them for the entire period of their service in groups of forces and remote areas.

"That is how it is under the law," says the KECh official imperturbably. "But we also have instructions from 'above'."

The mysterious "above" turned out to be the billeting and maintenance directorate of the Belorussian Military District. Specifically it was Colonel Tech Serv N. Guk, deputy chief of the directorate. The instructions not to reserve housing for officers and warrant officers who are departing in an exchange, in the face of existing legislation, came directly from him. Comrade Guk explains this by concern for most rapid solution to the housing problem in the garrison.

"If these comrades turn in their apartments, they have nowhere to go," he reasons, "but we have a reserve, you see."

But the servicemen in question do not plan to lock up the apartments. Warrant Officer Yushkin, for example, made out an agreement ahead of time with Warrant Officer A. Boyko. Without getting into red tape of reservations, this serviceman, who has not yet been provided with normal housing, could have occupied a separate apartment for at least a half-year now. There are many other arguments showing that the aforementioned actions by officials of KECh and KEU [billeting and maintenance directorate] not only are illegal, but do not provide the presumed benefit for resolving the housing problem in the garrison.

The deputy chief of KEU, however, adheres to a different point of view. Therefore he asserts: that is how it was, and that is how it will remain henceforth. Again, he considers instructions from "above" to be the basis for this argument.

It would appear that the command element, political organs and officials of the district military procurator's office would look into the reasons for the situation at hand in a timely manner and would bring pressure to bear on those guilty of the long drawn out red tape.

Aviation School Food Complaints

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Aug 77 p 4

[Article by Maj A. Bedzhanyan, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "On the Track of a Letter: Cross-Outs in a Menu"]

[Text] The letter from the group of military aviators stated that a lack of water is being experienced in the training center of the Armavir Higher Military Pilots' School of Air Defense, where they serve. There are days when there is no water at all. In addition, food in the soldiers' mess is prepared in a monotonous and tasteless manner.

I drive to the garrison. And the first thing I hear from Private P. Boyko and other authors of the letter is this joyous word: "Now there is water! Our compound was hooked up to the main line in recent days."

But as soon as we began talking about food, the people I was with immediately grew bored. I realized full well the reason for this change in the soldiers' mood when I went a bit later with Major V. Tsurikhin to the soldiers' mess.

There were bare, gloomy walls, peeling in many places, and a dirty floor. Dishes had not been removed from the tables. There was an abundance of flies. I must admit, I had not seen such a thing for a long while.

I familiarized myself with entries in the food quality control book and with the ration schedule. There was a meager list of dishes. The names of the appetizers were solidly crossed out as if the aviators were serving not in the southern climes, rich in greens and vegetables, but somewhere in the Transpolar regions.

No signs were seen here of participation in the All-Army Review Competition for the best troop economy. Obviously, no one had been forced by this important activity to have a critical, businesslike look here at the organization of personnel messing.

The district newspaper NA STRAZHE had already written about some of these shortcomings. It stated, in particular, that they had refused to grow kitchen gardens here, with absolutely no justification. Unfortunately, neither the deputy commander for supply, Senior Lieutenant V. Shishlov, nor Senior Lieutenant V. Chetyreshnikov or Warrant Officer V. Papchenko, who managed the food service, had taken any real steps to eliminate these shortcomings.

I would hope that the school command element imposes order in the soldiers' mess and achieves an improvement in everyday support to personnel of the training center.

School Admission Complaint

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Aug 77 p 4

[Article by Maj K. Pashikin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "On the Track of a Letter: 'Makeweights' to the Points"]

[Text] The letter which came into the editorial office called for justice. It stated that S. Shatalov, a matriculant of the Voronezh Higher Military Air Engineer School, having accumulated 20.5 points, was refused acceptance. At the same time, others who showed lower results became cadets.

One could not believe that everything was just that way. For there are documents which precisely define the procedure for acceptance into military educational institutions. The letter's author probably had been informed incorrectly about the true state of affairs and had not been able to look into any of the details. A check on the spot, unfortunately, showed that there was no exaggeration at all.

"It is impossible to orient oneself blindly only on results of acceptance exams," Engineer-Major General O. Mylov, head of the school, explained to me.

"In order to determine whether a matriculant is worthy of becoming a cadet, much must be thrown onto the scales," added Engineer-Colonel N. Samotsvet, chairman of the acceptance commission.

And it was true that in deciding the matter of enrolling, for example, matriculants A. Dochkin, A. Popov and V. Naumov in the school, the title of first-rank athlete was added to the scales as a "makeweight" to the 17 points which each of them possessed. The pointer on the scales immediately began moving and froze opposite the cherished "Accept."

As it became known, acceptance commission member Lieutenant Colonel I. Goryushev declaimed in particular for this decision. He based this, of course, on the interests of the chair of physical training and sport, which he headed. If such matriculants became cadets, it would be much simpler to man the teams which were to defend the school's honor in various competitions.

"Physical conditioning has a primary importance," they said, persistently trying to convince me. "In addition, the rules for acceptance mention preferences which..."

It was superfluous to try to convince me of this. The importance of physical conditioning for future officers, including engineer-aviators, is doubted by no one. But was this what Lieutenant Colonel Goryushev and the others were concerned about? There was just one detail: the head of the school said that 19 cadets had completed training in the first year and had

departed on leave without having been able to eliminate the "arrears" in physical training. Here is where the head of the chair should have applied his efforts. But one senses that instead of mass sport, what comes to the foreground at the school is the struggle for trophies and certificates.

With regard to acceptance rules, they really do give preferential right of entry to the school to a number of persons. In particular, matriculants from among civilian youth (and it is about these very youths that we are now speaking) receive preferences if they have been presented with honor certificates on completing secondary school; if they have submitted documents showing active participation in school and other circles, in olympiads, or in contests and reviews conducted for pupils by higher educational institutions and organizations; or if they have shown best results in a physical training check.

But for some reason they "forgot" at the school that these lines in the rules for acceptance are preceded by others. It follows from these others that preferential right for entry is granted to someone in a case where several matriculants have accumulated a like number of points and the question must be decided on which of them to give preference. With an equal number of points! Otherwise the competitive exams would lose all meaning whatsoever.

V. Zavodchenkov also was enrolled in the school in spite of existing rules. He accumulated 19.5 points, i.e., less than Shatalov, mentioned earlier, and considerably less than V. Norton, S. Petrov and V. Yermachenkov, who also were refused acceptance. What was the reason? Here a different "makeweight" played a part. The youth's father--Engineer-Colonel A. Zavodchenkov, who headed one of the departments in the school--managed to persuade the command element that his son had to be accepted in the school. Had to be, and that was it!

The letter received by the editors calls for justice. It would appear that it is not yet too late to restore it. It is no less important also to look into why officials at the Voronezh Higher Military Air Engineer School, who have been entrusted with the important matter of selecting the most worthy from among the candidates, have taken the path of violation of existing acceptance rules to military educational institutions.

6904
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HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS IN CLOSE SUPPORT EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 77 p 1

[Article by Lt Col F. Semyanovskiy, Order of Lenin Moscow Military District:
"Above the Battlefield"]

[Text] The tactical exercise was in full swing. The "enemy" had prepared to launch an attack. But intelligence reported that he has powerful antitank reserves which he had concentrated on the directions of the main efforts. If they are not put out of action or receive perceptible losses it would be difficult to count on achieving success. The commander of the motorized rifle-men directed the attention of Lieutenant Colonel Kuznetsov to this very aspect of the matter.

Stanislav Aleksandrovich Kuznetsov is the commander of a helicopter squadron. This subunit supported the actions of the ground forces. And just now the officer received a mission--to launch fire strikes from the air. The squadron had to accomplish such missions many times. But this was complicated by the fact that the "enemy" had created not only a powerful ground defense, but also an antiaircraft defense.

Lieutenant Colonel S. Kuznetsov, Majors V. Kobelev and M. Demidenko, and Captain Yu. Smirnov thoroughly studied the intelligence data. The squadron commander, having envisaged various versions for operations by the rotary-wing aircraft, determined the crews' routes. In order to accomplish the mission the masterful use of the equipment's combat capabilities, bold coordinated actions, and the ability to destroy the target under the conditions of difficult tactical conditions were required of each of them.

The squadron commander had no doubt of the crews' training. Many of the aviators are highly qualified specialists and have already become genuine masters of combat employment. But the success of each flight depends on the thorough training and the moral-psychological attitude of people. And then the deputy squadron commander for political affairs, Captain Yevgeniy Fedorovich Azeyev, and the secretary of the subunit's party organization, Major Aleksandr Stepanovich Ponomarev, assembled the party activists. Each of the communists was given the mission and the squadron's operating procedure.

...It is preflight preparation. It is being thoroughly conducted by the helicopter flight technicians, 1st Class specialists Captains of Technical Service Aleksandr Tochilo and Bulat Nasyrov and First Lieutenant of Technical Service Vasiliy Sotnikov. In the squadron, 60 percent of the helicopters are outstanding. This means that the combat machines are always in excellent technical condition. The flight technicians together with the aircraft specialists are carefully preparing them even now, and special attention was directed to the onboard armament.

First to take off on the mission is the group which was assigned the mission to draw the attention of the antiaircraftmen in order to give the other crews the opportunity to attack the "enemy's" tanks and antiaircraft guns. The group is led by the deputy squadron commander, 1st class military pilot Major Viktor Ivanovich Kobelev. His actions in the air are always distinguished by boldness, initiative, and resolve. However difficult the tactical situation may be, Viktor Ivanovich will operate in flight confidently and prudently and will make the most expedient decision. His wingmen are a match for the leader. For example 1st class military pilot Major Yevgeniy Fedorovich Prikhlenko. The aviators of the subunit recognize his "handwriting" without difficulty. The officer is distinguished by punctuality in the accomplishment of each flight assignment and irreproachable execution of combat maneuvers above the target.

The group led by Major Kobelev took cover behind the horizon. Stanislav Aleksandrovich Kuznetsov looks at his watch. One more minute--and then the main group of helicopters led by the squadron commander will take off on the mission.

Now the main thing is not to give themselves away prematurely and utilize each fold in the terrain and the forest to reach the strike objective covertly. The squadron navigator, Major Ponomarev, is attentive. Together with the commander he selected the route and direction to approach the target earlier, calculated the time to reach it, and now he is seeing that the flight plan is strictly observed so that there are no deviations from the course. The preliminary training on the ground is providing its perceptible result.

While the "enemy" antiaircraftmen repelled the raid of the diversionary group, the helicopters of the main group broke through to the target. It is the most appropriate moment for launching the strike. And then, suddenly appearing from behind the forest they make an upward jump simultaneously. Attack! With his acquired eye Lieutenant Colonel Kuznetsov discovers ground targets quickly. Right here Major M. Demidenko and Captains Ye. Azeyev and D. Ivanov are conducting fire right behind the squadron commander.

The battlefield is blanketed by the dust and smoke of bursts. One more pass is to be made, and Lieutenant Colonel Kuznetsov organizes a combat maneuver for a strike from another direction. And as formerly, complete coordination in the actions of all crews and precision in the launching of rockets at the targets. The pilots are the equal of their commander, a first-class fighter.

...The situation on the exercise became heated. The motorized riflemen knew that now the "enemy" is trying to meet them with all the power of his weapons. How can the force of the "enemy's" blow be weakened, how can a possible counterattack be frustrated? And again the commander of the motorized riflemen turns to the helicopter men: it is necessary to lay a minefield on the most dangerous direction.

The helicopters are in the air again. On board each one is a helicopter mine layer. They approach the mining sector covertly and begin work immediately. Literally in minutes, the helicopters established a minefield where the "enemy" had counted on a swift breakthrough. The mission was accomplished.

On these exercises, the squadron demonstrated good aerial ability. Each sortie of the crews was evaluated highly. It could not be otherwise. The subunit has won the title of "outstanding" four years in a row already in accordance with the results of socialist competition. To confirm this title--this is the task which the aviators have assigned for themselves in the anniversary year of the Great October. Participation in the discussion of the draft Constitution of the USSR is giving them new strength in socialist competition. And they are keeping their word firmly.

6367

CSO: 1801

COMBAT TRAINING RESULTS IN GSFG REVIEWED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 77 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen P. Shkidchenko, Deputy Commander of GSFG for Combat Training: "Build Up Efforts"]

[Text] Recently generals, staff officers, and group directorates worked on executing a check on the course of the training process and the accomplishment of socialist obligations in a number of units and subunits of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. Our correspondent asked the Deputy Commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, Lieutenant General P. Shkidchenko, to share his impressions on the results of this work.

I should like to note first of all, said Lieutenant General P. Shkidchenko, the high patriotic enthusiasm which is reigning everywhere now among the personnel of our large units and units. Caused by preparations for the 60th anniversary of the Great October and the nationwide discussion of the draft Constitution of the USSR, this enthusiasm opened new vivifying springs of socialist competition.

In the summer training months, many military collectives achieved noticeable indices. Such, let us say, as the Guards Tank Ural'sk-L'vov Volunteer Division imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. Malinovskiy, the Guards Tank Berdichev Regiment imeni Sukhe-Batora, the motorized rifle regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel G. Kasperovich, and others.

Summer combat training is saturated with exercises and firings. I, for example, received great satisfaction from observing the skillful actions of the men in the tank company commanded by Lieutenant N. Korikov on a tactical exercise with live firing. A high rate of attack was achieved in the course of the battle, various targets were destroyed without a miss, and the company officers displayed wise initiative and demonstrated increased tactical maturity. Just what predetermined such success? I would note first of all the painstaking preparation of the subunit to go out into the field. On the eve of the exercise

two tactical and marching-drill exercises took place here, the high quality of which was the concern of the battalion commander, Major V. Kirichenko.

In our opinion, those officers proceed absolutely correctly who now continue to concentrate efforts on training the squads, sections, and crews. Someone may note, he says, that this is really a "stage which has been covered;" the question of the combat coordination of the battalion is on the agenda. Of course, this is problem number one. However, the practice of training and the check lessons which we conduct are evidence that this task is accomplished more successfully when the squads, crews, and sections are well trained.

It would be possible to say much about the factors which contribute to the continuous improvement of such skill. Here, we also have the firm methodological skills of commanders, a varied training-material base which meets contemporary requirements, skillfully organized socialist competition, and much more. At the same time, the high personal responsibility of each officer for the comprehensive improvement in the quality and effectiveness of the training and indoctrinational process will rightfully be placed in the foreground. This, it is believed, contains the key to all our successes. We can name such officers as the battalion commander, Major V. Shkolovoy, company commander, Lieutenant V. Shagva, and many others whose subordinates are continuously building up achievements in competition. And this is primarily because they are self-critical in evaluating their own labor and have an uncompromising attitude toward shortcomings of any type.

Unfortunately, there also are instances of another type. There still are comrades who are not accustomed to working rhythmically and set their hopes on some "dash at the finish." Of course, in the remaining weeks of the training year much can still be done if we use each hour of training time with maximum effectiveness, but it is an indisputable truth that only rhythmic training during the entire year and high daily demandingness can lead to stable success.

Obviously, more attention should be devoted to seeing that all military personnel consider as the law of their lives the complete and high-quality accomplishment of the plans for combat and political training, lesson schedules, and socialist obligations. Any "high tides" and "low tides" in combat training do not lead to anything good.

Nor can we close our eyes to the fact that cases of indulgences and simplifications have not yet been overcome. In one of the companies, electric lights were hung on the barriers of restricted passages "for better orientation" on night driving of infantry combat vehicles. A check showed that in some of the subunits of this unit there still is not the proper concern for instilling high devotion to principle and a critical approach to the evaluation of their activity in the commanders and political officers. Simplifications on lessons also occurred here earlier; however, the party committee did not give it the proper evaluation and did not hold one communist accountable for shortcomings in the training process.

At the concluding stage of the training year, much will depend on the heat of the socialist competition and the struggle to be the leading large unit in the Armed Forces. The past months of summer training show that successes are more considerable where the personnel are occupied by the competition daily and objectively directly in the company and battalion and where it receives specific direction. Our leading company and battery commanders are devoting primary attention to summing up the results of the past week and assigning tasks for the next one. In which regard, they are doing this in a differentiated manner--first with the platoon commanders and the company activists, and then with all soldiers and sergeants. An objective discussion takes place, a grade is given to all men without exception, and leading experience is propagated in time.

Many of our subunits and units are struggling for the title of "excellent." This goal is very high. It obliges us for much and requires the rhythmic attainment of the positions which have been outlined from month to month. For the present, this is not the situation everywhere. Recently, we listened to the regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel B. Zagney. This regiment was the first among the tank units of the group of forces to support the initiators of the competition in the Ground Forces--the Carpathian motorized riflemen. It would appear that it should set the tone in everything. But there still are many shortcomings here and not all subunits, in struggling for the title of "excellent," are showing high, stable results. Therefore, it is necessary to make a serious study of the reasons for the uneven training of the subunits and eliminate shortcomings in a short time.

The plans for combat and political training and the socialist competition must be accomplished completely, with high quality. This task determines the main direction of our work in the remaining time of this training year.

6367

CSO: 1801

TECHNICAL TRAINING RESULTS IN MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 77 p 2

[Article by Col I. Popov, commander of the Motorized Rifle Sivash-Stettin Order of Lenin, Twice Red Banner, Orders of Suvorov and the Labor Red Banner Division, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District: "Reserves for Technical Training"]

[Text] This division was created at a terrible time for the young Soviet republic--in June 1918.

The Red fighting men of this oldest large unit in the Armed Forces matured and were tempered in the fiery vortices of the Civil War. They fought against Kolchak, Denikin, and Wrangel. The legendary lines of combat glory--Sivash and Perekop--are inscribed in the division's combat chronicle in gold letters.

In the Great Patriotic War, the division participated in the battle for the Kursk salient, in the forcing of the Dnepr, and in the battles for the liberation of Belorussia and Poland. Five combat orders now shine on the battle flag of the large unit.

Now, at the concluding stage of the summer training period, intense combat training is under way in the division's units and subunits. The exercises conducted in the subunits are a kind of preliminary inspection of the forces in the struggle to be the leading large unit. The men are striving to lead their division up among the best in the Armed Forces. In the attainment of this goal, an important place is allotted to the technical training of the personnel. The division commander tells about how things stand on this work sector.

The subordinates of Captain I. Davydov showed high technical skill on past exercises. They successfully accomplished all training-combat missions under the difficult conditions of mountainous terrain. Taking over the battalion,

Captain Davydov immediately set a clear and consistent course for the personnel's profound mastery of technical knowledge and for the irreproachable handling of organizational equipment and weapons. Of course, these features in the organization of the training process and in competition could also be observed in other units and subunits of the division. But in the collective headed by Captain Davydov, they were manifested most perceptibly and vividly.

Here, I believe, much depends on the battalion commander, on his organizational qualities, and on his high personal state of training. Like a baton, Davydov inherited his military specialty from his father, an artillery officer. And just like his father, he is giving all his strength to service. He was a battery commander for three years--and it was outstanding for all three years. Last year, Captain Davydov and his subordinates won first place in district competitions, flashing with outstanding firing and technical ability.

In our time, much depends on the technical state of training of those who direct the battle. The fact that Captain Davydov is a master of combat qualifications characterizes rather convincingly the level of his technical training. And no less important is the fact that he persistently transmits his knowledge to his subordinates.

One day, I had the occasion to witness a small ceremony in the battalion. To the friendly applause of the officers, warrant officers [praporshchik], sergeants, and soldiers the commander awarded pennants to the leaders in the competition before a formation: "To the best driver-mechanic," Private First Class S. Fedyayev, "To the best computer," Sergeant G. Markov. The skillful use of moral incentives is also a characteristic trait of Captain Davydov's work style.

It is important to raise the authority of an officer who possesses a high technical style with the entire system of moral incentive. By the way, the level of technical training and the tactical training which is closely linked with it is one of the decisive factors which are considered in promotion.

I could also mention the names of other officers--experts on equipment and masters of its employment in combat--whom the division command has repeatedly cited. They are Colonel L. Gabrielyan, Lieutenant Colonel V. Shadrin, and Captain V. Mochalov. They enjoy deserved respect for their great contribution to improving the technical ability of the personnel.

But we are far from complacency. Unfortunately, an active search for reserves to improve the technical ability of the personnel is not yet going on in all units. For the present, individual commanders, especially from among those who were recently appointed to their posts, are still not making sufficient use of such an important means as socialist competition in this important matter.

One day, I dropped in at the barracks where the men of the subunit headed by Senior Lieutenant I. Zupan live. I was interested in knowing who among them was the best driver. I heard several names. But nevertheless, who specifically is the leader of the competition? I did not get a precise answer to this

question. It is as if all shortcomings in the organization of the competition for high technical ability in the subunit were concentrated in this episode. It clearly does not have sufficient concreteness and purposefulness. A spirit of competition is not felt on the lessons here. And isn't this the reason why there is no healthy, professional competition among the officers themselves in perfecting their technical knowledge and skills? They do not have a shining example which they could equal and pull themselves up behind it. Therefore, for the present the subunit cannot boast of any special successes, either. By the way, when I asked the commander who is the best specialist among the officers in the subunit and how many people among them have a rated qualification and which one, he could not answer these questions.

The division's staff and political section are now directing their main efforts toward helping those commanders who need it, eliminating omissions, and putting all reserves into action for the skillful mastery of equipment and weapons. We also see the flaws in the organization of the competition and we are striving to eliminate them. Publicity and comparability of results in the competition--these are the accelerators which will help our commanders to increase its effectiveness and wrest additional seconds from the normative time when the men are working on the equipment. There also are a great number of proven forms for propagandizing the experience of the leaders. These are: a leaflet with a description of the experience, presentations at technical conferences, and special conversations between rated specialists and the men.

Now, it is especially important for commanders at all echelons to be deeply imbued with a sense of personal responsibility for the state of affairs in their collectives in this decisive period of the training year, to labor as required by our service and party duty, and to evaluate what has been achieved exactly. The new positions which we still can and must attain in combat training will be the best expression of the lofty patriotic feelings of the Sivash warriors which are caused by the nationwide discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the USSR and preparations for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

6367

CSO: 1801

PARTY WORK INTENSIFIED IN MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 77 p 2

[Article by Col V. Trushin: "Exactingness"]

[Text] The Guards Training Motorized Rifle Sevastopol' Red Banner Regiment imeni Latvian Riflemen achieved high results in combat and political training from year to year.

And suddenly a surprise: last year the regiment lost the title of "excellent" and did not accomplish its socialist obligations.

The secretary of the party committee, Captain Valeriy Ivanovich Bortulev, tells the conclusion which the members of the party committee drew then. Of course, there was bitterness in everyone's heart--and they felt their guilt. It would have been better to help the command. And now, it is necessary to rectify the situation. The party committee conducted a thorough analysis of the work style and methods in all party organizations of the subunits and posed for itself the task of evaluating the activity of each communist and determining who has fallen short of the target in what and where unused reserves are concealed.

A businesslike, principled, and self-critical conversation about all this then took place at a regimental party meeting. The thought about increasing party demandingness was then heard especially pointedly.

The matter is clear, you don't achieve much with appeals alone. Demandingness must be maintained by the entire system of daily work and effective organizational measures. The decision which was initiated and well thought out in its details and which became a specific plan of action for the party organization was adopted.

Much time has passed since then. High professional enthusiasm is reigning in the regiment and people are filled with a burning desire to win the positions which have been lost. The party organization is actively helping the command, inspiring the personnel, and raising the communists for the solution of main questions in combat and political training and the organization of socialist

competition. And the implementation of the decisions at which the communists arrived then, at the end of the training year, can be clearly seen in all this work.

One of these conclusions was: to conduct preventive work, identify shortcomings at early stages, do not allow them to take root, and adopt efficient measures for their elimination.

How matters are proceeding in the subunits and how the communists are working are constantly studied in the party committee and party bureaus. Here, for example, it began to be discovered that the platoon commanded by Lieutenant V. Zuykov is not accomplishing its obligations. The party activists painstakingly studied the life, combat training, and the course of socialist competition in the platoon and the work methods of its commander--a young communist. Zuykov was invited to a meeting of the party bureau and his report was heard. A number of recommendations were given, and in the decision which was adopted they indicated what the communist must do and by what time. And things improved for him.

Now the party committee and the party bureaus have better knowledge of the state of affairs in the subunits and the course of the accomplishment of the socialist obligations because they raised the significance of party information sessions and intensified the check of execution of decisions which are being adopted. They began to hear the reports of commanders more often and to make a deeper analysis of their participation in socialist competition. In this training year, more than 20 communists have given reports in the party organizations of the subunits and at sessions of the party committee. More than during all of last year. But it is not only a matter of numbers. The approach to the reports changed. Formerly, they heard a person and expressed advice and did not return to the matter any more. Now, the decision on a communist's report is taken up for a check by one of the members of the party committee or party bureau, and the communist knows that in the indicated time he must interest himself in how the decision is being implemented. And what is typical is that in all this work, of course, the striving to help a communist in a comradely manner predominates. However, this does not mean that party interference has lost its keenness. Where necessary, the demand is very exacting. Senior Lieutenant V. Gur'yanov spoiled political lessons and was indifferent to such a question as how the men are accomplishing their obligations on political training. They had a very serious talk with him.

In short, good rhythm was set for the competition in the regiment. It appeared that all was well. And suddenly--a meeting of the party committee with the question of shortcomings in training the personnel and raising the responsibility of the communists for the effectiveness of the socialist competition.

Exactly--suddenly. That's how it seemed to some. They say, what's the problem, for the matter is proceeding successfully on the whole.

But there were no contradictions here. If you say "on the whole," it means that there are also particularities. There were "particularities." Someone

weakened attention to the organization of the competition, was not concerned about raising its educational role, did not attain a spirit of competition on lessons, and forgot to sum up results in time. There also were other omissions. The party committee assembled the communists--battalion commanders and their deputies for political affairs. In the most detailed manner they discussed both the shortcomings and the measures which must be adopted to increase the responsibility of the communists. The fact that the session of the party committee was timely and the decision was mobilizing and businesslike is indicated by the heat of the competition, clearness in its organization, and the growth in the combat ability of the men.

The party organization drew the correct conclusions from the bitter lesson of the past. I think that there is an instructive aspect for others, too, in this example: an atmosphere of high, strict, and constant exactingness and demandingness must prevail in the party collective.

The most important time in the struggle for the accomplishment of socialist obligations is now setting in, and it is necessary to labor with redoubled energy and the highest responsibility. This is how the communists of the regiment understand their task. The party organization is directing the patriotic enthusiasm of the personnel, which is caused by preparations for the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution and the discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the USSR, toward the attainment of high results in combat and political training and the complete accomplishment of obligations and toward seeing that the regiment imeni the Latvian Riflemen greets the anniversary of the Great October in the ranks of the outstanding units.

6367

CSO: 1801

CONCERN FOR VETERANS' WELFARE EMPHASIZED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 77 p 1

[Editorial: "Veterans"]

[Excerpts] Here is what Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev said about them, our veterans, warmly and sincerely: "After the colossal strain of the war years they could not rest: the frontline fighters again found themselves at the front--on the labor front. Many of our frontline comrades are no longer with us. But millions are still in formation. Some are continuing to serve in the army while others are giving the Motherland their knowledge and labor at plants and construction sites, in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, in scientific institutes and schools."

Yes, even today millions of veterans are in our combat and labor formation. They are people of deep communist conviction who are a shining example of selfless service to our ideals, they are the carriers of the socialist traditions in which the richest experience of revolutionary struggle and creation is consolidated. They are confirming and propagandizing these remarkable traditions first of all by personal example of ideological conviction and political, labor, and public activity. There never were and there are no matters in the country in which the veterans of the revolution, war, and labor would not have taken ardent part!

The love and respect of society for veterans of the revolution, war, and labor is also graphically manifested in the attention with which we surround these honored people. This attention is eloquently shown, in particular, by the institution of the medals "Veteran of Labor" and "Veteran of the Armed Forces of the USSR." The party and the state are tirelessly concerned about pension support and the medical service for veterans. All this is causing sincere gratitude among them. Here is what Lieutenant (Retired) Vasiliy Semenovitch Kargapolov, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, writes the editors from the city of Kamyshlov, Sverdlovskaya oblast: "I returned from the war after its completion sick and infirm. In the military hospitals the doctors did everything possible to stop the further spread of ossification of the spine and the joints. I received treatment in sanatoria and received free accommodations

every two years. Thanks to this, I returned to labor. I created a good family. Soviet authority helped my children to obtain an education. I myself am on a pension. I work when my strength permits. Really, is such concern for a person possible in a capitalist country?"

This letter needs no special commentary. It can only be added that the constant sponsorship of the collectives of enterprises, sovkhozes, and kolkhozes is being implemented over many veterans who need care. They are given tangible assistance by Komsomol and pioneer organizations, assistance committees with the military commissariats, and councils of brother-veterans.

They proceed correctly where they conduct thematic motion picture festivals devoted to active participants of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the Civil War. District, group, and fleet newspapers should systematically publish materials on the Great October Socialist Revolution, on the organizing and leading role of the party in its victory, and memoirs of veterans of the revolution and Civil and Great Patriotic Wars. Among the troops and in the fleets there should be more complete use of the combat experience of the front-line fighters for purposes of military indoctrination. In accordance with established tradition, the men should take part in measures conducted by local party and soviet organs which are devoted to the memory of the fighters for the cause of October and to the honoring of veterans.

The atmosphere of public attention to the veterans which reigns in our country is the most convincing evidence of the kinship and unity of the generations which are united by common interests and ideals. Confirming the deep respect of the people for the exploits which have been accomplished in the name of our revolution and the defense and approval of its achievements, at the same time it contributes to the upbringing of the youth in a spirit of readiness for new labor and soldierly achievements.

The profound respect toward veterans of the revolution, war, and labor and alignment on their labor and soldierly exploits--this is both the patriotic duty and a requirement of the soul for each of us.

6367

CSO: 1801

EFFECTIVE TRAINING FOR STRATEGIC ROCKET TROOPS DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 77 p 1

[Article by Engr-Lt Col A. Belousov: "Training and the Same Exam"]

[Text] Several minutes before the start of the comprehensive training session, the strategic missile troops took their places in front of the boards in the classroom. It was silent. It usually is before the start of a difficult exam. One can understand the excitement of the young specialists. From the results of the training, the unit command would judge the degree of their readiness to stand a tour of duty. But what sort of examination would it be for the experienced specialist? What new would it provide for them?

But the master of military skills, Capt Ye. Belen'kiy was preparing earnestly for the combat training. He always stood a difficult missile watch excellently. Really was there anything that he did not know and which he had not encountered in all his many years of work with the equipment?

I asked Capt Belen'kiy about this. He nodded understandingly and having thought a bit, replied:

"Experience is, of course, a great thing. But we should constantly improve our skills and train our memory. Otherwise you fall behind. Certainly none of our training sessions is like any other. We never know ahead of time what problems we must solve. We must be ready for any surprises. Yes, I must say that I am concerned not only for myself. The results will depend largely upon our teamwork and upon the ability to help a comrade at the needed moment, and if need be, take over for him."

I had already noted that a significant place had been given to these questions in the summer combat training plan. For the 60th anniversary of Great October, many missilemen had pledged to master related specialties. And it must be assumed that during the present training the leader would set the goal of checking to what degree the interchangeability of the specialists had been developed.

A bell rang and the leader and the instructor officers entered the classroom. The equipment was turned on. And from this minute everything around the missilemen ceased to exist. Their attention was completely focused on the quickly flashing indicator lights and transparencies. The leader's commands followed one after another. The specialists constantly altered the operating conditions of the systems and exchanged brief sentences. This is how the comprehensive training looked to the outside eye. The instructor officers carefully watched the actions of the specialists. At the end of the training the leader would be able to assess the skills of the collective as a whole from how the mission had been carried out. But he does not have an opportunity to monitor the actions of each specialist, to spot mistakes made or detect their causes. Here the help of the instructor officers is essential.

Ordinarily the training program is drawn up ahead of time. But it is rare when the combat training is carried out strictly according to the designated plan. In the course of it the leader can see where the missilemen are strong, and where omissions in their training can be felt. With this he makes corrections in the initial plan.

From the very outset, Capt Belen'kiy realized that he would have to work at the limit of his capabilities. Several inputs followed and these complicated the tactical situation. Out of the entire diversity of arising problems, it was essential to isolate the primary and main one. It was impossible to spot it immediately, without preliminary analysis. Help from other specialists was needed. But each had his own functional duties. Would they be able to take on the additional load?

The first to "respond" was Sr Lt N. Ul'yanov. He was the secretary of the subunit party organization, he had mastered his own specialty, and was successfully mastering related ones. He was followed by Lt V. Makin and then other specialists. They began to deliver data which eased the work of the commander and the other specialists.

At this moment, over the loud speaker came the voice of the leader:

"Lt Makin has been put out of action."

The officer left his position. Certainly he was not to be blamed, but his face was distressed. Now his comrades would have to do his work. And he could only watch them from the sidelines.

The pace picked up. The hand of the control stopwatch was approaching the red line in abrupt, energetic jumps. As soon as it crossed the line, the time envisaged by the standards would be up. But if there had been no report on the fulfillment of the mission before this time, there would be the slight justification for the missilemen that they were not working at full strength. Under combat conditions, such a situation is completely possible. But there, of course, there would be no concessions. And there should be none now.

It cannot be said that Capt Belen'kiy took the input calmly. But it was not a great surprise for him. He immediately began to operate according to a new plan, and this made it possible for the specialists to redistribute the duties between themselves. But still the greatest burden rested on Sr Lt Ul'yanov. With precise well timed movements, he carried out the operations at his board, and followed the instrument readings on the neighboring one and without waiting for requests, "sent out" the data.

The report of Capt Belen'kiy was given before the hand of the stopwatch reached the red line. The mission had been carried out. The standard had been surpassed. The leader could now begin to analyze the comprehensive training.

Initially the instructor officers should have their say. But certainly today the specialists had worked magnificently, and what comments could the instructors have? However, there were, it turned out, comments. In truth, at first glance they did not seem very substantial. For example, it was recommended that Sr Lt Ul'yanov watch his speech more attentively. But is diction so important for a missileman? Yes it is! With just one indistinctly pronounced word an order or report can be misunderstood. There are no minor details in preparing for a tour of duty. The leader had some practical advice for the specialists. Then the results of the competition were given. And the missilemen left the classroom. Only now did they begin to feel the tension lessening. Someone asked:

"Well how was it?"

Capt Belen'kiy and Sr Lt Ul'yanov stopped. As if by arrangement, they replied in a single voice:

"An ordinary training session."

10272

CSO: 1801

SHORTCOMINGS IN COMBINED-ARMS OPERATIONS NOTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Aug 77 p 1

[Article by Col R. Dukov: "Schooling in Mutual Support"]

[Text] The motorized rifle battalion under the command of Capt S. Gorbov was to pierce the deeply echeloned "enemy" defenses from a march formation. The success in carrying out this complex mission depended largely upon the precise cooperation between the motorized rifle, tank, artillery and other subunits participating in the combat training. In a word, the exercise had been planned in such a manner that each commander could obtain an object lesson in organizing and maintaining cooperation. However, in preparing for the offensive, the battalion commander overestimated the combat capabilities of the attached and supporting means. With good reason, when he gave the instructions for cooperation, certain officers voiced their doubts over whether there were sufficient available forces and means for successfully carrying out the given mission.

The doubts were not unfounded. The battalion was unable to pierce the defenses from a march formation. Firing points of the defenders which had not been suppressed by the artillery continuously waited along its path. The problem was that the artillery battalion supporting the motorized rifle troops by the start of combat had not been supplied with the necessary quantity of ammunition. It had consumed a portion of the battle scale of ammunition previously and this certainly should have been considered. There were not sufficient available means for reliably suppressing the "enemy" defenses to the entire depth of the battle mission. Thus, the attacking subunits were confronted by constantly new missions which had not been anticipated in organizing cooperation before the start of combat. Of course, it is impossible to anticipate all the nuances of combat beforehand. But in the given instance, it was a question of elementary miscalculations in organizing cooperation. And the entire further course of events showed that the main reason for the failure of the battalion was in the insufficient ability of the commanders to organize precise cooperation of the attached and supporting subunits.

How did events develop subsequently? A fighting and reconnaissance patrol succeeded in capturing a bridge across a water obstacle without a pause.

The battalion did not lose a moment and quickly crossed to the opposite side. Here it should have benefited from the success, having correctly allocated the forces and means. However the initiative was lost. Without properly digging in on the captured line, the battalion commander ordered the entire artillery battalion to cross the river immediately. It would have been better in the given instance to do this battery by battery. The artillery troops had not succeeded in reaching the bridge when the "enemy" which by this time had brought up reserves, counterattacked the motorized rifle troops which were on the other bank. The battalion left without tanks and artillery was forced to retreat from the advantageous bridgehead.

Cooperation is rightly termed the basis of success in modern combat. Only coordinated efforts by the subunits of all the branches of weapons as well as aviation and the ground forces can lead to victory in combat with a strong and well armed enemy. Each person should realize this. But still it is not so rare to see in exercises commanders who forget this simple truth. And as the experience of the exercises shows, modern combat of even a small scale can involve subunits of different branches of forces equipped with complex military equipment. But the artillery, tanks and combat helicopters become a powerful means in the hands of a combined-arms commander only under the condition that he sufficiently knows their combat capabilities and the particular features of the tactics of their action. Without this it is impossible to employ them effectively in one or another tactical situation.

The commander of a motorized rifle company, Sr Lt Yu. Volkov, was given the mission of attacking an "enemy" which had dug in on a tactically advantageous line, then driving the enemy from the held positions and together with adjacent units develop the offensive in depth. In understanding all the difficulty of the forthcoming combat, the company commander gave special attention to organizing cooperation. The actions of the company and the attached and supporting subunits were carefully coordinated in terms of time, missions and lines. The work of organizing cooperation did not stop with the start of combat. Scarcely had the artillery and mortars shifted their fire from the forward defensive edge deep into the "enemy" strongpoint when upon the command of Sr Lt Volkov, the tanks and infantry combat vehicles moved into the attack. In destroying the surviving "enemy" weapons, they forced their way into the strongpoint.

What helped the commander achieve success? First of all, high personal training, a responsible attitude for organizing cooperation, and, of course, a profound knowledge of the combat capabilities of the attached and supporting means. Before beginning to organize cooperation, Sr Lt Volkov clearly ascertained with what forces and means he would have to carry out the given mission, and he thoroughly thought out the procedure of their use and alternative actions in the event of surprise changes in the tactical situation. Everything was subordinated to carrying out the mission in the shortest time and with minimum losses. And the calculation was correct.

This example is indicative for the commander's desire to make maximum effective use of all the existing forces and means, and in particular, the tanks and artillery. The combat use of artillery and tanks is one of the central questions of cooperation, and each combined-arms commander cannot help but consider it. Unfortunately, shortcomings are still encountered in this question. Instances may be observed when tanks are committed to battle against a strong antitank "enemy" defense without the motorized rifle subunits and artillery. This can be explained only by a poor knowledge of the tactics of tank subunits. For the same reason, evidently, certain combined-arms commanders, having tanks available, at times allocate them in small groups to the subunits. As a result, the power of the tank subunit and its advantages are not fully manifested.

Shortcomings are also encountered in the use of artillery. In one of the exercises, the combined-arms commander gave the following mission to a subunit of large caliber artillery: suppress the "enemy" mortar battery. Of course, it was not particularly difficult for the artillery troops to carry out this mission. But why should such powerful weapons be used? To act intelligently on the battlefield means to use most effectively those forces and means which are available to the commander.

The skills of such actions are acquired by constant work on the fields of tactical exercises and training. Here each commander undergoes schooling in cooperation. One of the most important tasks in the concluding stage of the training year is to continue to constantly master knowledge relating to the tactics of the artillery, tank and aviation subunits, the air defense weapons, the combat helicopters and subunits of special troops. To successfully carry this out means to take another step ahead on the way to improving combat mastery, and to fulfill the pledges in the competition to properly celebrate the 60th anniversary of Great October.

10272

CSO: 1801

MILITARY RAIL TRANSPORT SERVICE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Aug 77 p 4

[Article by A. Korolev: "The Military Rail Transport Service"]

[Text] Dear Editors! I would like to read in the newspaper an article on the military rail transport service, about its workers and the tasks carried out by them.

Maj S. Yeryushov

This letter brought me to one of the experienced leaders of the military rail transport service, Col V. Shchetinin. He fought on the front, he has been awarded orders and medals and has been an honored railroad worker since 1944. For the last 11 years, Col V. Shchetinin has been chief of troop movements on the Moscow Railroad.

"At any hour of any day," said Vladimir Nikolayevich [Shchetinin] at the meeting, "specialists from the military rail transport service, or as it is called for short, the VOSO Service, are on duty in organizing, supplying and carrying out diverse troop movements for the needs of the army and navy. Freight including diverse equipment, all types of materiel, structural elements and so forth are moving virtually constantly to the recipients of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Moreover, troop trains and crews are transported by rail. During all stages of the troop shipments, in loading, en route and in unloading, there is continuous dispatcher control over the transports, trains and crews by the military rail transport bodies.

The service pays great attention to passenger shipments of servicemen, the members of their families, and reserve and retired officers.

The VOSO Service is concerned with all of the designated as well as many other activities, and this service is an agency of the USSR Ministry of Defense at the public rail and other types of transport. The VOSO Service has a rich history. The first to create this service was Russia.

After Great October almost simultaneously with the creation of the Red Army, new military rail transport bodies were formed. V. I. Lenin said at that time: "Without railroads a socialist revolutionary war is the most harmful betrayal."

During the period of the Great Patriotic War approximately 20 million railway cars were shipped over the railroads along with troops, military equipment and supplies, as well as hundreds of thousands of cars with wounded, and around 2 million cars with equipment of industrial enterprises.

Col V. Shchetinin went up to a diagram of the Moscow Railroad. In continuing our talk, he said that its length is over 10,000 km.

The railroad is a major transport association consisting of 15 divisions, a large number of railroad junctions, stations and other modern enterprises. It serves the capital of our motherland, Moscow, and eight central oblasts. There are section and station commandant offices where necessary on the road.

The Bryansk section commandant office is headed by Lt Col Yevgeniy Vladimirovich Marin, a highly skilled and industrious officer. For 10 years this commandant office has had the title of outstanding. The collective has promised to keep this title for the 60th anniversary of Great October and was the initiator of a socialist competition for an exemplary commandant office on the railroad network.

During the jubilee year, the military commandants Lt Col G. Khazanov, Maj M. Tulinov and Capt A. Shmelev, as well as the senior bookkeeper of the finance and economic department A. Yushin and many other VOSO workers are doing high quality and efficient work.

The deputy chief for troop movements on the Moscow Railroad, Lt Col Yevgeniy Vasil'yevich Sorokin, familiarized me with the work of the operational duty men. On that day, duty was being stood by the operator officers Capts M. Stramnov and A. Gordeyev. In maintaining constant contact with the section commandant offices and with the chiefs of troop movements on the adjacent railroads, they kept under close control the loading, traffic and unloading of all the trains and transports. Here the operator officers constantly cooperated with the traffic service and the other services of the Moscow Railroad.

The persons with whom I spoke stressed that the chief of the railroad, Hero of Socialist Labor Leonid Anatol'yevich Karpov, and all the leadership of the road and the divisions were profoundly aware of the questions related to military shipments.

The VOSO workers of the railroad are taking an active part in rationalization work. Last year 36 rationalization proposals were put into practice, and they provided an economic effect of 60,800 rubles. It is still a

ways to the end of the present year, but from the rationalization proposals introduced in the previous months, a savings of 58,000 rubles has already been obtained.

...As over all the mainlines of the nation, military trains move night and day over the Moscow Railroad. The workers of the VOSO Service are constantly standing their responsible duty.

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